

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the CNMI government sell or lease out the Mariana House in Washington D.C.?

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i Sagua Spa team leader Andy Roda certainly has her hands full.

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The father of The 5 Browns pleads guilty to sexually abusing his daughters.

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CUC enters 31st month of emergency

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. entered its 31st month under a state of emergency this month, with continued lack of legislative relief to, among other things, allow CUC to hire non-U.S. citizens to work on power, water and wastewater systems.



Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's original CUC emergency declaration was signed on Aug. 1, 2008. He extended it for the 31st time on Thursday.

Fitial reiterated that a shortage of manpower caused by a law that limits skilled foreign workers has continued to place CUC operations at risk.

Unless the legislative restriction on hiring foreign workers for government agencies like CUC is lifted, Fitial said the administration will be forced to retain the emergency declaration so that CUC could continue to tap foreign skilled workers and experts.

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Regular gas now \$4.259 a gallon

» New 5-cent gas price hike at Shell, Mobil stations



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Mobil Oil Mariana Islands gas attendant helps fill a customer's van with gasoline, some two hours after Mobil increased the pump prices of its gasoline products by 5 cents a gallon at 3pm yesterday.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Just a month after increasing pump prices by 8 cents a gallon, Shell Marianas and Mobil Oil Mariana Islands once again increased their prices for fuel products by 5 cents a gallon yesterday.

Shell increased its prices yesterday morning; Mobil at 3pm.

Regular unleaded gasoline at Shell and Mobil service stations is now \$4.259 a gallon, from the previous price of \$4.209 a gallon.

Super or premium unleaded gasoline at Shell and Mobil now costs \$4.579 a gallon, up from \$4.529 a gallon.

Diesel is now \$4.519 a gallon at Shell and Mobil service stations, from the previous price of \$4.469 a gallon.

Greg Basa, a resident of San Vicente, said he would like to know why the gov-

ernment has not stepped in to regulate gas prices, which continue to go up.

"I think the government, especially Department of Commerce, is not doing its job. Can't they control gas price? It's not only you and me who are suffering. Even the government is suffering, but why can't they do anything about it?" Basa said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* while he was filling up his pickup truck at the Mobil service station on Middle Road in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

Basa said his \$20 gas now lasts for just a day or two as prices continue to go up. He, his son, and other family members use the same truck to go to work and do errands, among other things.

Yesterday's price increase was the second for 2011, and the eighth since 2010.

Since February 2009, Saipan motorists

See GAS on Page 4



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Carm and Raynalyn Taitano and Keoki Cabrera prepare their "pepper jack chicken" entry during yesterday's Kagman High School's recipe competition on campus.

Kagman High hones young chefs

» Nine groups compete in first-ever recipe competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Nine groups of junior and senior high school students took part in yesterday's first-ever recipe competition at Kagman High School.

The competition is part of the school's culinary arts program, which

was born this year through the help of the Public School System's career technology education program.

Principal Alfred Ada said he envisioned the culinary arts program for many years and was thankful that it finally came to fruition this year through the dedication and commitment of program instructor Frank Sablan.

Sablan has a two-year degree from Western Culinary Institute, with emphasis in French fine dining under the

See KAGMAN on Page 4

Local

CNMI targets more year-round flights from Japan

In a move to keep more flights operational year-round to this resort destination, the Northern Mariana Islands has earmarked up to \$6.2 million over the next two years to establish a Japan Air Stabilization Program.

The program, signed into law on Feb. 16 by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, aims to encourage

year-round air service from the source cities of Osaka and Nagoya, Japan. At present, air service from Osaka and Nagoya are operational during peak periods and nonoperational during off-peak periods. The program will provide a cash incentive to all participating Japanese travel agents who sell seats from Ja-

pan to the CNMI from these two source cities during qualifying off-peak periods.

The Japan source market comprises about half of the estimated 400,000 annual visitor arrivals to the NMI, but currently, only flights from Narita (Tokyo) operate year-round.

"The enactment of the Ja-

pan Air Stabilization Program gives us a new economic tool to attract more visitors during the so-called 'death valley' months," said MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce. "Equally important, this law demonstrates a unified intent of the MVA, the Legislature, and the governor and lieutenant governor to support tourism, since it is our sole economic driver."

The bill earmarks a percentage of hotel occupancy tax and business gross receipt tax to be deposited bi-weekly by the Finance secretary into a trust fund for the incentives.

According to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, the MVA is already working with

the Finance secretary to establish rules and regulations for the program, including eligibility requirements for participating agents. The actual amount to be expended will be determined in the required rules, and no funds can be expended from the fund except for direct flights that would not otherwise exist during periods when no regularly scheduled flights come from Osaka or Nagoya.

"There is an urgency to establish the rules of the program so that we can present the specifics of the incentive program to our travel partners in Japan soon enough to help drive traffic to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during the next down period this fall,"

said Tenorio. "There are some provisions in the law that will require some consideration on the overall impact of the program. Unfortunately, the promulgation of the rules and regulations as required by this law and the time needed by those travel agents that want to partake in the program to develop and implement their promotions requires considerable time, so the implementation of this program will probably not be in time for the April through July 'death valley.'"

The program also provides special additional incentives for flights to Tinian and Rota to induce more visitors to choose those destinations. (MVA)

SHEFA adopts official stance opposing plan to give part of its budget to NMTI

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance made its position official Thursday, strongly opposing a pre-filed local bill that seeks to allocate a portion of its budget to the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

House Local Bill 17-39, authored by Rep. Raymond Palacios, proposes to earmark 25 percent of SHEFA's budget—about \$775,000—to the institute.

NMTI administrator Clare Ngirausui, who was present at the Thursday meeting, appealed to the SHEFA board to support Palacios' bill because the institute needs to build more classrooms.

She said the NMTI needs to add five classrooms to its existing four so it could accommodate more classes.

"We know you're opposing it...but Mr. [Tony] Pellegrino wanted to say that: yes, we're asking for 25 percent but that's only for three years to get the workforce for the CNMI. If you have seen the labor report on job forecast, there are over a thousand jobs available and we want our students to be trained for those positions,"

she told the board. Pellegrino owns the trades institute.

Without the additional funds, Ngirausui said that NMTI could not afford to build more classrooms.

"We want that part of the money and invest it into our school," she said.

She pointed out that the institute gets majority of its funds from the Workforce Investment Agency and has only gotten some \$8,000 in scholarship grants from SHEFA.

Board members agreed that they fully support the NMTI program but said that giving away a part of SHEFA's meager budget is not feasible.

"That's a lot of money. We have to take note that many of our students are still waiting for their scholarship assistance which has been delayed due to budget concerns," said SHEFA board member John Tenorio.

Board chair Jose Mafnas described the proposal as "unrealistic" and "impossible" to accomplish.

"It's not realistic and will be impossible for us to give what we don't have. Besides, SHEFA invests in students and not in school buildings. I don't think

SHEFA funds should be tapped to construct classrooms or other institutional operational costs," said Mafnas.

Other board members emphasized that SHEFA already helps NMTI students with \$1,000 yearly assistance.

NMTI program vs NMC apprenticeship program

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider said he finds it illogical for the Legislature to appropriate funding for the privately-owned apprenticeship program when it failed for many years to fund the Northern Marianas College apprenticeship program.

NMC has never implemented its apprenticeship program since its creation due to lack of funds.

"That program never kicked off and NMC is in the process of putting the program back together without assurance of funding [from Legislature]. But now Congressman Palacios is looking at providing funding for NMTI?" asked Hofschneider.

The board voted to adopt a resolution opposing the legislation and discussing the matter further with the local delegation.

SHEFA gets \$3.2 million a year for its programs.



TAXI ASSOCIATION

The NMI Taxi Association Inc. will have its inauguration of new officers and general membership meeting today, Feb. 19, 2011, at 8pm, at the Kilili Beach pavilion. Picture shows, from left, board of director Zaman, secretary Mamin, vice president Habib, and president Mizan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank, university tie up for new school-to-work program for Pacific Islanders

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii and Brigham Young University-Hawaii announced recently that they have partnered to create the Pacific Banking Scholars Program, a school-to-work program aimed to develop business and leadership skills for students from American Samoa, Saipan, and Guam.

A reception was held Thursday at the BYU-Hawaii campus, where Bank of Hawaii awarded the school with \$100,000 for Pacific Banking Scholars Program scholarships.

The Pacific Banking Scholars Program provides assistance to students from low- or moderate-income households in American Samoa, Saipan, and Guam seeking to further their education in finance, accounting or business. Students in this program must show a commitment to return to their respective community after graduation from BYU-Hawaii.

Peter Ho, Bank of Hawaii chairman and CEO, said, "Bank of Hawaii is pleased to provide Pacific Island students with this opportunity to gain business and financial skills. We designed this program to provide not only financial support through scholarships, but to also offer students career opportunities through Bank of Hawaii internship and associate programs."

Dr. Steven C. Wheelwright, president of BYU-Hawaii, said, "We're thrilled with this new program and are grateful to Bank of Hawaii for their generous support of our students. Connecting students with internships and jobs in

their home countries is a point of emphasis for BYU-Hawaii, and the Pacific Banking Scholars Program aligns perfectly with that effort."

In addition to the \$100,000 for scholarships, students in the Pacific Banking Scholars Program can benefit from BYU-Hawaii's loan forgiveness program, which has been incorporated into its school-to-work financial aid program (I-WORK). Students' financial needs will be funded 50 percent by a scholarship and 50 percent through a loan that will be forgiven over a four-year period if the student returns to American Samoa, Saipan or Guam.

Pacific Banking Scholars can also apply for a summer internship in the Bank of Hawaii commercial banking division or Hawaii branch division. In addition, Bank of Hawaii may offer select full-time positions in its commercial banking division or Hawaii branch division to qualified graduates of the program as part of its Bank Associate Program.

Recruitment for the Pacific Banking Scholars Program is ongoing. Students interested in applying for the program can contact BYU-Hawaii Career Services (career.byuh.edu, 808.675.3975) for more information. (PR)



COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine Cabrera, second from left, and NMC staff take time to pose for a group photo with visitors from the Hawaii Pacific Islands Campus Compact organization at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The visitors met with Cabrera; NMC Career Services program coordinator Annie Santos, third from right; Adult Basic Education/NMC adjunct instructor Dr. Arnold Dision, second from right; and dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan, far right, to ensure the sustainability of Service Learning program for students at the college. The Service Learning program, also known as the Students in Service program, is a federal scholarship program in which college students participate in community service activities to earn funds for educational expenses. The program at NMC has been receiving funding from UH and will continue to receive support for the next three years. The visitors from UH are Denise Pierson, far left, state network director for the Hawaii Pacific Islands Campus Compact, and Atina Pascua, third from left, the Service Learning program director.

NMC

Public no-show at hearing on CNMI political status bill

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Only three people showed up Thursday at a public hearing on a bill to create a commission that will review whether the Commonwealth still desires to continue its relationship with the United States, forcing the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations to cancel the event.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the JGO Committee, said they will have

to reschedule the public hearing on House Bill 17-7 to March.

"The committee decided to postpone it and set another date because of lack of participation from the public," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), also a JGO Committee member, said only one from the business community and two government officials showed up at 6pm at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

He said the rest were committee members and other leg-

islative staffers.

Palacios said a public hearing on a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. matter was also held at the same time as the public hearing on HB 17-7, and this may have been a factor in the poor attendance. But less than 20 also showed up at the other public hearing related to CUC.

HB 17-7, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), seeks to create a Second Marianas Political Commission, and to re-examine whether the people desire continuing a Com-

monwealth relationship with the U.S. pursuant to the terms of the original Covenant agreement.

The bill also seeks to determine whether a continuation of the U.S.-CNMI political relationship is in the best interest of the people, "or whether some other political status would better enable them to fulfill their aspirations of full and meaningful self-government."

The House JGO Committee asked at least nine agencies or entities to be present at the public hearing and provide written or oral testimony on HB 17-7.

These include those who negotiated the Covenant between the NMI and the U.S., the mayors of Saipan and the

Northern Islands, the chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, the resident executive for indigenous affairs, the executive assistant for Carolinian affairs, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, the CNMI attorney general, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce president.

Torres' HB 17-7, or the Second Marianas Political and Economic Status Commission Act of 2010, requires the Legislature to appropriate an initial \$50,000 funding as an advance to the commission to begin operations. Additional funds can be appropriated as necessary for the commission to carry out its functions.

The commission shall con-

sist of 11 voting members and two non-voting ex-officio members—the House speaker and Senate president.

Of the 11 voting members, two shall be from Rota, two from Tinian, two from Saipan, and five to be appointed by the governor. Of the governor's appointees, at least one shall be female, and at least two shall be a member of the business community.

Among other things, the commission is tasked with making studies and recommendations regarding what political and economic status is in the best interest of the CNMI people, and to produce draft treaties, agreements and laws reflecting any such status.

US govt releases interest in property of Santos couple

The U.S. government released Thursday any interest it had in a piece of land reportedly owned by former Commerce secretary James A. Santos and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica F. Cruz issued a partial release of judgment lien in the 980-square-meter property.

"This partial release applies to no other property or assets of James A. Santos [and Joaquina V. Santos]," Cruz said.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI issued a judgment on Aug. 5, 2009, requiring the Santos to each pay a \$400 special assessment fee, a \$25,000 fine, and jointly pay restitution in the amount of \$346,125.

Cruz said a judgment lien was filed by the U.S. government against the Santos couple for the amount of the restitution and fine on Aug. 21, 2009.

A judgment lien is a ruling that gives a creditor the right

to take possession of a debtor's property if the debtor fails to pay a debt.

The Santos, together with former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, are currently serving sentences in federal prisons after being found guilty of charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Finance releases tax lien on Crisostimo couple

The Department of Finance has released the tax lien on the property of Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo (Dem-Saipan) and his wife over their failure to pay \$573,044.21 in withholding and Business Gross Revenue Tax.

Finance, through collection and remittance branch manager Richard F. Santos, filed Thursday a certificate of release of CNMI tax lien that was issued

to Sen. Crisostimo and Maria Crisostimo.

Santos certified that the Crisostimos have already satisfied the requirements of the Revenue and Tax Regulations for the withholding and BGRT taxes and "for all statutory additions, penalties, or both."

Finance filed a notice of tax lien last week, stating that the Crisostimo couple failed to pay

their BGRT from 1999 to 2004, and from 2006 to 2008. They also allegedly failed to pay withholding tax in December 1998 and December 1999.

The senator earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the tax due was for a company he used to own. He said they are now negotiating with the government to resolve the matter. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Bangladeshi community to observe National Language Day

The Saipan Bangladesh Cultural Group will be observing National Language Day on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011, from 5pm to 7pm, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center auditorium.

Rakibul Islan Mintu, president of the Saipan Bangladesh Cultural Group, is inviting everyone in the CNMI community to the event, which will feature cultural programs such as songs and poetry reading.

In 2000, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization declared Feb. 21 as International Mother Language Day for the whole world to celebrate, in tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the Bengali Language Movement, and the ethno-linguistic rights

of people around the world.

The Bengali Language Movement was a political effort in Bangladesh (then known as

East Pakistan), advocating the recognition of the Bengali language as an official language of Pakistan. (*Saipan Tribune*)

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **February 22**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **February 22**.

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- TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
- Online payment – up to 9:00pm



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
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INVITATION TO BID

ITB11-GOV-050

ADDENDUM NO. 1
02-17-11

Tier II Testing Services for the Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure

The previously advertised notice, Invitation To Bid ("ITB") for the **"Tier II Testing Services for the Puerto Rice Dump Final Closure"** has been amended. The specific amendment is to modify Scope of Work, include one (1) sheet of the dumpsite plan, extend when bids are due, when bids will open and extend performance time to sixty (60) calendar days. Amendment shall read:

*Bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., March 10, 2011 ChST**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST March 10, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 10, 2011** and must be received no later than **March 22, 2011 ChST**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.*

*Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. ChST March 23, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **11:00 a.m. ChST March 10, 2011**.*

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. John Reyes, Project Coordinator at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408. Questions are due no later than close of business day February 24, 2011.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement & Supply

BRIGHT MINDS

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Filipino ex-convict faces removal case; blames lawyer for guilty plea

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Filipino ex-convict who has been married to a female resident for more than 20 years now blames a former assistant public defender for the removal case filed against him in Immigration Court by the U.S. Homeland Security.

Crizaldo M. Valdez said that he and his wife, Barbara Fujihira Ada, had consulted then assistant public defender Jeffrey Moots on a proposed plea agreement that would dispose of his criminal case.

While Moots explained everything that was in the proposed plea agreement, Valdez said the lawyer never told him about the effect the plea agreement will have on his right to continue living with his wife and child in the CNMI.

He said Moots never told him and

his wife that, by signing the plea agreement and accepting its terms—which basically consisted of pleading guilty to attempted rape—he could be deported from the CNMI not only by the CNMI government but also by the federal government.

Relying on Moots' explanation, Valdez said he was persuaded by his wife to accept the terms of the agreement because a trial would be difficult for her hypertension.

As a result of the plea agreement, Valdez was found guilty of attempted rape and was sentenced to six months in prison on June 4, 2002.

"My family suffered tremendously when I was incarcerated because I was the only breadwinner in the family," he said.

A few months ago, Valdez said, the Department of Homeland Security

filed a removal case against him, saying he should be removed from the CNMI due to his criminal conviction of attempted rape. The removal case is still pending in Immigration Court.

"If I am removed from the CNMI, my suffering would be worse than the incarceration which I served, because this would mean that I would be separated from my wife and child forever," he said.

Valdez filed the declaration in the Superior Court to support his motions to withdraw his guilty plea and to set aside his conviction. The hearing on the motions will be on March 10, 2011.

Reynaldo O. Yana, counsel for Valdez, said it is not only legally right to set aside the conviction and allow a withdrawal of the guilty plea; it is also humanitarian and consistent with the policy of the CNMI that married couples should be allowed to live together.

In the government's opposition to the motions filed Monday, assistant attorney general Benjamin K. Petersburg said that allowing Valdez to back out of an agreement entered into nearly nine years ago would prejudice the

Commonwealth not only in this case, but in the many other cases where an alien defendant, long ago convicted of a crime, now faces possible deportation as well and might seek to withdraw a guilty plea.

8 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach Drainage, and San Jose Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected

from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

USCIS posts translations of CNMI-only investor program information

» Materials available online in Chinese, Korean, Russian and Tagalog

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, in response to the unique makeup of the long-term investors in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has posted translations of its web pages and Q&As related to the CNMI-Only Investor Program. Hyperlinks are found below, along with directions on how to get to the translations through www.uscis.gov.

gov. Please note that the translated materials are available as right hand links on the English versions of the CNMI-Only E2 webpage and Q&A page.

This special status of E-2 treaty investors does not exist anywhere else in the United States. It allows eligible CNMI investors to remain in the CNMI as investors under E-2 CNMI status through December 2014, and to exit and enter the CNMI with valid

CNMI-Only Investor visas. Derivative visas are available for spouses and children of the primary applicant.

The web page translations can be found by going to www.uscis.gov/cnmi and clicking on the right side of the page on "Other USCIS Links: E-2 Visa: CNMI-Only Investor." Links to the translated pages will be found on the right hand side.

Translations of the Questions & Answers can be found by going to www.uscis.gov/cnmi and clicking on the right side of the page on "Other USCIS Links: CNMI News" and then selecting Questions & Answers on the left hand side of the page, then the E-2 link under December 2010. **(USCIS)**



PREFERRED MODE OF TRANSPORT

Tourists walk past a row of mopeds and bicycles for rent along the shoulder of Beach Road in western Garapan. Operators say many visitors prefer using mopeds and bicycles to tour the island.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

GAS

From Page 1

have seen an increase of at least \$1.55 a gallon in gasoline prices from what they used to pay.

Josephine Palacios, a Garapan resident, said Mobil and Shell are quick to increase their pump prices but are slow in rolling back their prices when they need to do so.

"It's really affecting everyone. Nowadays, we really have to save and cut expenses as much as we can," she said.

Palacios said if her route is only from her house to work at the airport area, her \$10 gas could stretch to two days. But if she does her errands, she would need some \$20 for her car for at least

two days, she said.

Lawyer Robert Myers Jr., who was also filling up his van at a Mobil station yesterday, said with the increasing prices of gasoline, motorists may really have to maximize the use of their vehicles once they leave the house.

He said, for example, that instead of shopping for only a few items at a time, households may have to consider shopping for a lot of items at once to reduce trips to stores and thereby cut on gas expenses.

Aaron Taitano, of Dandan, said because he and his family wouldn't be able to control the gas prices, they could only cut their expenses, including on food and school materials.

He and his mother and other family members filled up their pickup truck with \$10 gas yesterday, which his

mother said would only be good for a day.

"What can we do?" another motorist said, when asked about how he thinks the latest gas price increase would affect him.

Other motorists didn't notice the increased prices until they were asked to comment about it.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price increases. Many Saipan motorists only learn of such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.

They said while the price of gas and other basic consumer goods have been increasing, their salaries have been decreasing because of the 16-hour pay cut per pay payroll and unpaid holidays for most government employees since October.

KAGMAN

From Page 1

Le Cordon Bleu Program in Portland, Oregon.

Since the school year opened, about 80 Kagman High students have already gained knowledge from his instructions and expertise. Because of the positive feedback and strong interest from students, the school plans to solidify the culinary arts program by setting up prerequisite classes for better results.

Nine groups of students competed in yesterday's recipe competition. The top two winners will represent the school in the statewide competition next month.

Sablan said the students competed in two categories: main entrée dish and vegetarian entrée.

Prior to the competition, participants took a crash course in culinary arts, which gave them the basics of cooking and sanitation standards.

The competition was judged by Emily Camacho, Bill Sizemore, and Kyle Mateo based on food taste, texture, creative presentation, originality, colors of the fruits and vegetables, and the number of locally grown produce used in the entry.

Ryan Camacho, one of the group leaders, praised the school for offering the program. He believes that honing their skills and interest in cooking will greatly benefit them and the Common-

wealth in general.

The 17-year-old senior student said it is his dream to become a chef someday.

"I am really interested in this program...so when I learned that the school is offering it, I grabbed the chance. This also allows me and other students to look at other job options after high school. I love cooking and I want to become a chef...so this is a good start for me!" he told *Saipan Tribune*. His group's creation was called "baked chicken."

The group of Keoki Cabrera and Carm and Raynelyn Taitano came up with an entry called "pepper jack chicken." They said they learned to appreciate cooking only when they enrolled in the program.

On an island where people traditionally celebrate fiestas and parties, instructor Sablan said that cooking is important for both the young and older generations.

"We grow up as kids watching our parents cook. If I fell in love with it, I believe that other kids will get into it as well," he said.

"Yes, we are creating cooks and culinary experts here. Hopefully, I am opening up the doors for them to look at other opportunities out there because not everyone can be a good lawyer or accountant," he said, adding that the program also aims to help develop a workforce that may be needed in time.

CUC

From Page 1

He pointed out that the local/U.S. citizen pool of skilled workers remains limited.

The latest emergency declaration has no major changes compared to the one signed by then acting governor Eloy S. Inos in January, wherein Inos gave CUC full power to hire, retain, and fire staff regardless of citizenship.

Fitial added a sentence on page 7 to state that "United States citizens with the necessary skills are not readily available in the CNMI, and it is costly to recruit from the United States."

Under the section on compliance with a federal court order for the disposal of used oil, Fitial said CUC has completed repair work on Tank 106, and plans to commission the tank after a final integrity inspection.

He also said that as of Jan. 23, 2011, CUC has completely drained 400,000 gallons of used oil, sludge and oily water out of Tank 104. The governor said CUC also cleaned the tank in readiness

for an American Petroleum Institute 653 inspection.

Fitial said the federal court held further status hearings on Jan. 5 and Feb. 15, "and praised CUC for fully emptying and cleaning Tank 104."

Improved water meter reading

In the area of water and wastewater systems, Fitial said CUC will be getting in the first week of March 12 new Itron handheld devices for water meter reading.

An Itron representative will be in the CNMI to train CUC personnel for a week.

"This means that for the first time in a long time, all the meter readers will have a handheld device," the governor said.

Of the 12 devices purchased years ago, only four are still in service.

"This is expected to result in significant improvement in meter reading accuracy, since information like meter number, prior read, notes, etc. will be available to the meter readers in the field. Also, the reads data will be electronically fed into the billing system," Fitial said.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

A true terrorism list

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times

Last fall, President Obama offered a sweet deal to one of the most reviled regimes on Earth: If the government of Sudan would allow a referendum on secession by the southern half of the country and abide by the election results, the United States would take steps to remove the country from the State Department's list of terrorism sponsors. The election went off, the south voted overwhelmingly to secede, and now the administration is reportedly moving to honor its promise—to the chagrin of many human rights advocates who point out that the Khartoum regime committed genocide in the Darfur region and conditions there have not improved a whit.

Whether the administration should be rewarding the government for good behavior in the south even as it continues to commit atrocities in the west is a thorny foreign policy question. But we have a more straightforward one: Why does Washington keep a terrorism list, anyway? Do we keep countries on the list because they're genuinely sponsors of terrorism, or because we want to punish their governments for other reasons? And if it's the latter, which recent events seem to indicate, wouldn't it be more honest and effective to keep separate lists, one for exporters of terrorism and others for human rights violators or other bad actors?

Designation on the terrorism list carries hefty economic sanctions, including a variety of financial restrictions, a ban on defense exports and sales and other penalties. There are currently only four countries on it: Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria. There were five until 2008, but the Bush administration removed North Korea to reward Pyongyang for cooperating on nuclear issues. After it became clear that the cooperation was illusory, the Obama administration considered putting it back on the list—but ultimately opted not to after a classified study indicated that Pyongyang wasn't sponsoring international terrorism. Details, details.

North Korea is just one example of a trend: Countries get on the list by supporting terrorists, but ending that support is seldom taken as sufficient reason for delisting them. Although Cuba backed violent Marxist movements around the world during the Cold War, there's nothing to indicate that it's still doing so—but Washington doesn't like Cuba, so it's still on the list. Sudan was listed in 1993 because Khartoum was a den of radical Islamists at the time, harboring such notorious figures as Osama bin Laden and 1993 World Trade Center bomber Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, but today it's reportedly cooperating with the U.S. on counter-terrorism efforts.

We're in no position to judge whether Sudan is still a terrorism sponsor. But we do think that if the list is to be meaningful, then the only legitimate basis for delisting Sudan would be if it has ended its involvement in terrorism, not as a quid pro quo for holding the referendum. Using the list as a tool of coercion on other issues tells hostile governments that the U.S. doesn't really care if they stop backing terrorists, and has other priorities it considers just as important. Economic sanctions against human rights abusers or nuclear proliferators are an excellent idea, but they should be kept separate from terrorism sanctions. And while we're at it, if we're going to delist Sudan, it's past time to take another look at Cuba.



Autism once more

The governor usually declares April as Autism Month for the Commonwealth. Parents in the Autism Society CNMI (as their predecessors with PACA and STaRPO did) are left to fend for themselves as even PSS SpEd struggles with both the definition of autism spectrum disorder as well as find qualified personnel to address ASD's varied manifestations and program responses.

Language arts MHS teacher Courtney Zietzke wrote in 2005 a book called *Mercury: The Winged Messenger* that focused on toxic thimerosal's role in vaccines and the impact on children's neuro-behavior. Autism is pandemic and the scramble to identify cause and pursue remedies has left parents and educators in a tizzy. But not the pharmaceutical industry that seems bent in banishing any suggestion that the thimerosal-laced multi-dose vaccine had any effect on the rise of autism incidence across the nation. Andrew Wakefield had the "temerity" to suggest so, and he has since been "prosecuted" for alleged sloppy and conflicted research.

In her book, Zietzke states the following:

1. Mercury is one of the most poisonous substances known to medical science.
2. Thimerosal was used as a preservative in multi-dose children's vaccines.
3. Thimerosal is 49.6 percent mercury, a deadly neurotoxin that causes permanent brain damage. MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) confirms toxicity.
4. Children received as much as 40 times the safe level for mercury exposure as established by EPA (the Environmental Protection Agency) from the thimerosal used in the vaccines.
5. There are over 700 waivers of the conflict of interest rule by the FDA, CDC, and NIH on paid consultancy from the drug industry. Dan Burton of Indiana called this a "violation of public trust."
6. George W. H. Bush was appointed to the Eli Lilly board of directors and lobbied for additional tax breaks until the Supreme Court told him to stop.
7. The Quayle family controlled Eli Lilly when Bush was elected to the board. Dan Quayle became Bush's vice president.
8. Both Bush administrations employed former Eli Lilly executives.
9. An 11th-hour rider in the Homeland Security Bill, facilitated by former Bush officials, protected the drug industry from liability over mercury-poisoned children.
10. Former Bush officials "sealed" CDC documents that proved the thimerosal additive used in the vaccines to be dangerous to children from the public.
11. CDC marked public documents with the phrase "DO NOT COPY OR RELEASE," violating consumer protection laws.
12. The drug industry paid consultants to disprove the relationship between autism and mercury poisoning from multi-dose vaccines.
13. The symptoms of mercury poisoning and autism are identical.
14. The onset of "autism" exploded in the last 20 years to epidemic levels.
15. This occurred in the same period when multi-dose vaccines with thimerosal were given to children in the first two years of their lives.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



16. The U.S. and state governments require *all* children to have 22 vaccines before being admitted to schools. Most of these vaccines contained thimerosal-mercury until 2005. The current flu vaccine still contains thimerosal.

17. The value of pharmaceutical stocks exploded from 1986 to 2005 due to vaccines.

18. The pet vaccine industry took thimerosal out of vaccines 20 years ago because of known risks to animals.

19. Eli Lilly Company distorted information on the dangers of thimerosal as early as 1930. This is in internal Eli Lilly documents unearthed by investigations of the Congressional Committee on Government Reform.

20. The U.S. Government's Vaccine Court of Law has a three-year statute of limitation that dismisses lawsuits when occurrence and lawsuit is beyond the three-year time limit. This is obstruction of justice and violates the constitutional rights of vaccine-injured children.

21. Eli Lilly and other drug giants have contributed liberally to politicians for protection against lawsuits filed by parents who have been financially wiped out by this tragedy.

22. The drug industry failed to disclose that baby vaccine products contained mercury additive. Parents were neither warned nor notified.

23. Congressman Burton of Indiana wants to bring criminal charges against those who are responsible for this national tragedy.

24. There are over 720,000 documented cases of autism-mercury poisoning. Another 250,000 cases are suspected. (Care and support for the rest of their lives, a crime against humanity perpetuated for corporate gain, costs an estimated \$2 million per child.)

25. The atrocity continues. Senate majority leader Bill Frist promotes bills that protect the pharmaceuticals from liability claimed by injured children of mercury poisoning.

Need for parent's vigilance is endless. *Forbes* magazine and *Huffington Post* take the position that the jury is still out on the issue of thimerosal and autism. The National Autism Association has, however, moved the case from "biologically plausible" to "biological certainty."

We may not have to wait for the CNMI Commission on Autism to submit their report to the Legislature before acting on Zietzke's allegations. It may actually be within the purview of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to convene (a) hearing(s) on this concern with assistance and involvement of AS-CNMI, PSS, NMC, AG-Consumer Protection and NMPASI. Let's get the facts; let's have the truth.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Unsated selfishness

For no particular reason, a memory flashed across my mind the other day, of my late mother opening the kitchen window of our home and declaring with a casual sniff of the outside air that “somebody’s cooking cheap fish.”

I wondered whether that olfactory observation meant Mama knew the smell of cheap fish because it was typically served on our plates. Or was it the opposite? She knew what noncheap fish should smell like, and that wasn’t the aroma she was sniffing.

Not that it really matters. I didn’t have to inhale our neighborhood to know it wasn’t exactly ritzy. We lived in the projects, an experience that I believe increases my empathy with people living in poverty.

I think most Americans want to help the poor. But much of today’s political rhetoric about cutting federal spending makes me wonder if our concern for the downtrodden is dwindling.

Put aside the ranting of folks like Carl Paladino, the failed New York tea-party candidate for governor, who said welfare recipients ought to be housed in prison dorms where they could be taught personal hygiene.

But pay attention to the federal budget cuts proposed by the tea-party-inspired Republican Study Committee, which in taking an ax-it-all approach to reducing the size of government would harm some of this country’s most vulnerable citizens.

The Republican group wanted to cut \$100 billion from the current-year federal budget (House party leaders prefer \$32 billion) and chop \$2.5 trillion from it in 10 years, excluding Medicare and Social Security. Only lately have the Republicans said they will also consider some defense cuts.

Their focus on cutting discretionary spending would mean hundreds of thousands of poor children would be dropped from Head Start. Thousands of poor college students would have their Pell Grants reduced. The Study Committee wants to eliminate the Legal Aid Corp., which provides lawyers to poor defendants.

It also wants to stop funding for other programs that conservatives see as liberal interests, such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Humanities. But more egregious are its proposed across-the-board cuts that would

Behind the ‘birther’ blather

Winston Churchill famously described fanatics as those who “can’t change their mind and won’t change the subject.” It’s an appraisal that also could be applied to those deranged Americans who continue to insist that President Obama is neither a U.S. citizen nor a Christian.

The so-called birther fantasy tends to go hand in hand with the belief that the president is secretly a Muslim militant scheming to impose Sharia law on the United States. American politics are no more immune to the corrosive effects of irrational and conspiratorial thinking than those of any other nation, which is why Republican leaders are courting the perilous and the unpredictable when they wink at this latest iteration of the paranoid style.

House Speaker John A. Boehner provided a particularly stark example of this sort of evasion Sunday on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” The Ohio Republican was shown a clip of Iowa voters expressing their belief that Obama is a Muslim and was asked whether he felt any responsibility to “speak out against that kind of ignorance.” Boehner replied: “I believe the president is a citizen. I believe the president is a Christian. I’ll take him at his word.” But he then went on to say: “It’s not my job to tell the American people what to think. The American people have the right to think what they want to think.”

Putting aside for the moment the question of why establishing the president’s citizenship or religious faith requires taking anyone at their “word,” the issue isn’t whether people have a right to believe dangerously idiotic things. Of course they do; there’s no way to stop them. The issue is whether people have the right to act on their bizarre fantasies, which is precisely what carrying them into electoral politics entails.

The real reasons for Boehner’s unseemly bobbing and weaving are clear, though they do neither him nor similarly inclined members of the GOP hierarchy credit. A national poll conducted over the weekend and released Tuesday by PPP—a firm that usually works for Democratic candidates but enjoys a nonpartisan reputation for accuracy—found that 51 percent of likely Republican primary voters believe that Obama was born outside the United States. More than 80 percent of the likely voters with a favorable impression of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin do not believe the president is a citizen.

So far this year, GOP lawmakers in 10 states have introduced bills that would require presidential candidates to prove, in some fashion, that they were born in the United States. The statute proposed in Connecticut would require the secretary of state to view an “original birth certificate” before certifying a candidate for the ballot.

affect antipoverty programs such as food stamps.

Politicians who want to indiscriminately wield a budget ax are in essence asking people to be selfish, to think only about themselves, and not about how their tax dollars might be appropriately spent to help others.

When I was growing up, people who had gained some affluence and didn’t concern themselves with their neighbors were said to have an “I’ve got mine” attitude. They had made it and didn’t care about anyone else.

They were called “sadity,” a slang term used derisively in African-American communities still guided by the Booker T. Washington principle that black people helping each other could collectively pull themselves up from the aftermath of slavery.

In today’s economy, many people need a hand to reach their bootstraps. But instead of helping them, some budget-cutters are acting like Dickens characters who would rather send the poor to an almshouse if the alternative is taxpayer assistance.

That’s selfish. It smacks of Ayn Rand’s “objectivism,” which contends that selfishness is not only good, it is a necessary ingredient for human survival.

Rand could have used the term self-interest to describe what she had in mind. But she said it was good to be “selfish,” apparently to put at ease anyone who might otherwise feel pangs of guilt for ignoring the poor.

“The moral purpose of a man’s life is the achievement of his own happiness,” Rand said. “This does not mean that he is indifferent to all men, that human life has no value to him and that he has no reason to help others in an emergency.

“But it does mean that he does not subordinate his life to the welfare of others, that he does not sacrifice himself to their needs, that the relief of their suffering is not his primary concern, that any help he gives is an exception, not a rule; an act of generosity, not of moral duty.”

If that had been the prevailing view when Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid were proposed, those programs would not exist. Welfare, even the reformed version we have today, would have never been born. Lyndon Johnson, who failed to achieve his “Great

By TIM RUTTEN

Los Angeles Times

Timothy Rutten is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.



“We don’t think the president was vetted, and it’s just that simple,” state Rep. Leo Berman, a sponsor of Texas’ birther bill, told the Politico website. He also said he doesn’t know whether Obama is “a citizen or not.”

Birther blather and the paranoid mutterings about Sharia are the cruder expressions of a more generalized assault on this presidency’s legitimacy that now suffuses a substantial part of the Republican political discussion.

Conservative commentator Michael Medved pointedly drew attention to it this week, citing a post on an influential GOP website that darkly mused, “Obama is not naive at all, but he instead knows only too well what he is doing, for he is eagerly promoting Islamic power in the world while diminishing the West.” Some of this nonsense derives, as Medved points out, from Dinesh D’Souza’s best-selling “The Roots of Obama’s Rage,” which argues that the president is “a man driven by the anti-colonial ideology of his (Kenyan) father and the first American president to actually seek to reduce America’s strength, influence and standard of living.”

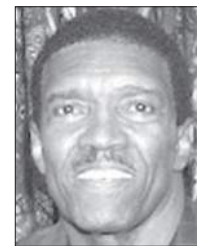
Palin has made similar allegations a mainstay of her appearances; she recently told a radio talk show audience that “what Obama is doing (is) purposefully weakening America—because he understood that debt weakened America, domestically and internationally, and yet now he supports increasing the debt.”

Rush Limbaugh, the GOP’s de facto chairman, has gone so far as to allege that Obama’s supposed antipathy to the United States is somehow linked to his race. “There’s no question that payback is what this administration is all about,” Limbaugh recently fumed, “presiding over the decline of the United States of America and doing so happily.”

What Boehner and the other sober heads in the Republican leadership ought to consider is the difference between questioning Obama’s policies and his legitimacy. It’s a profound and consequential distinction.

By HAROLD JACKSON

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Harold Jackson is editorial page editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him via email at hjackson@philly-news.com.

Society,” would not have even attempted it.

I don’t mind politicians being zealous about the need to cut government spending, but let’s do it in the context of protecting the poor in the process. Social welfare programs shouldn’t be exempt from spending cuts, but neither should their reductions be so draconian as to put poor families in greater jeopardy.

As for those right-wingers who consider themselves religious but want to make budget cuts that would hurt the poor, they should read 1 John 3:17: “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?”

How, indeed?

Where do we go from here?

By EHAB KOTB

THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

CAIRO—Now that things are getting back to normal in Cairo, everyone here is talking about what will happen next. For the first time, people are discussing what needs to happen in the country, economically and politically, as well as in terms of establishing justice and transparency for the future.

Already, some areas of general agreement have begun to emerge. For example, while the need for economic development is clear, the public is now demanding that the benefits of economic wealth be shared across the society. There’s a call to rethink some of the basic elements of Egyptian government services, from taxation to health insurance.

There is also a general awareness of just how costly the uprising has been to the country’s economy. And there is a growing awareness that the general public may need to lower its expectations of what can be achieved in the short term in order to avoid disappointment and frustration.

Many basic questions remain unanswered. Will Egypt have a presidential or a parliamentary form of government? And what about political parties? Until now, the Muslim Brotherhood has been the best-known and best-organized opposition force in the country.

Since the uprising started, representatives of the Brotherhood have been quiet. “Ai some say too quiet. They say that they will not field a candidate for presidential elections and do not seek to gain a majority in parliament.

This is unusual and uncharacteristic, because as long as most people can remember, they have been very outspoken and have tried to take the lead in any movement.

Then again, most political parties are holding back for the moment. Most are waiting to see what the army does. So far, people are very pleased, especially with the military’s announcement that it would hand control over to a civil government, ensure a peaceful, stable transition and then withdraw.

Still, the public is worried about military involvement in the political process. The generals currently in charge have not yet given any timeframe for a transfer of power or parliamentary elections.

Elections were due to be held September, but now that parliament and the constitution have been dissolved, no one knows when votes will be scheduled. They could be held next month or next year.

Everyone agrees on the need for an investigation into who gave the orders to shoot on the protestors and for them to be judged, even if it was the president himself.

The mood right now, especially among the young, is hopeful. After decades of not being allowed to form their own political opinions, they are learning to tolerate opinions that are different from their own.






That, after all, is the basis of the democracy we have all worked to hard to achieve.

Ehab Kotb is a reporter in Egypt who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

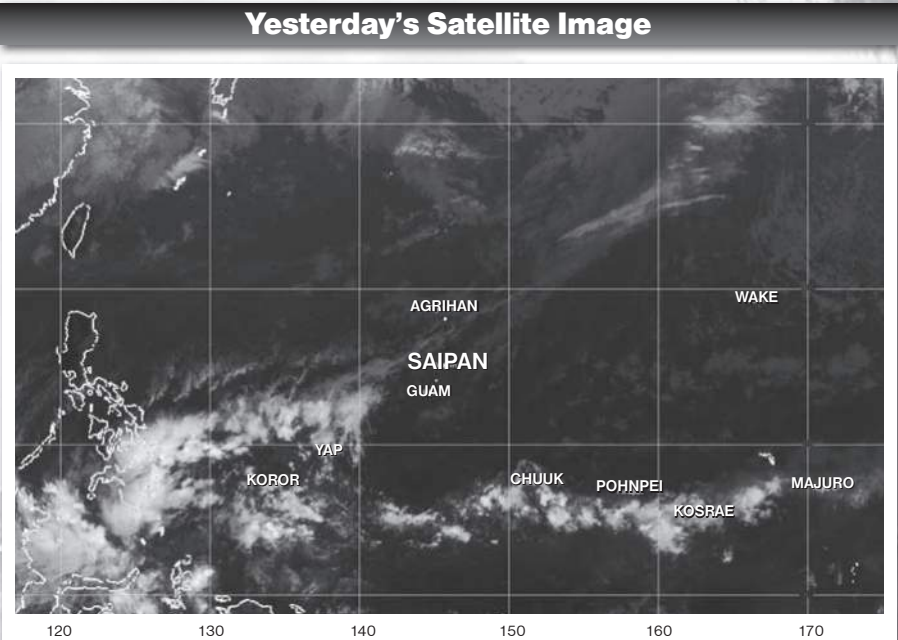
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Palau	Rain	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Yap	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▼ 26
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 58
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 41
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 63
Miami	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 61
New York	Windy	▲ 43 ▼ 26
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 37
Paris	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 39
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 43
Salem	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 31
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 41
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 27
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 41
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 55 ▼ 34

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A persistent shear line extends southwestward from near Minami Torishima at 22N155E through Guam at 13N145E to beyond 130E at 8N. Patchy clouds and light showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line from 155E to 144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen along and up to 230 miles northwest of this boundary between 139E and 130E. Converging surface winds are coupling with upper-level divergence to create scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Republic of Palau between 2N and 8N from 130E to 139E. A diffuse shear line meanders west-southwestward from 10N180 to south of Kwajalein at 8N167E south of Chuuk at 6N152E to finally end at 4N141E farther south. A near-equatorial trough reaches eastward from 4N140E to a weak circulation centered southwest of Kosrae at 3N161E then turns northeastward to end just northeast of Majuro at 9N175E. Convergent winds near these two features are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in a large area over both Kosrae and Majuro but just south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kwajalein. This area lies within 120 miles of a line from 5N141E to 6N161E to 7N173E to 11N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM	Today	7:17 PM	6:56 AM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM	Sunday	8:18 PM	7:42 AM
Monday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM	Monday	9:19 PM	8:29 AM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM	Tuesday	10:19 PM	9:16 AM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Wednesday	11:20 PM	10:06 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 2:4-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sis Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sis FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Sunday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

United Airlines will retain Economy Plus

» Will expand to Continental aircraft beginning in 2012

CHICAGO—United Continental Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: UAL) yesterday announced that it will retain United’s popular Economy Plus® seating on United flights and expand the option to Continental aircraft beginning in 2012, providing more opportunities for customers to enjoy additional legroom and comfort.

“Our customers value Economy Plus and the additional personal space that it provides,” said Jim Compton, chief revenue officer of United Continental Holdings. “Customers who sit in Economy Plus are significantly more satisfied with their travel experience, as are travelers who choose other options that enable them to tailor their travel to their liking.”

The decision to maintain and expand Economy Plus across the combined fleet marks a significant milestone in the product integration of United and Continental. It also demonstrates the company’s commitment to provide innovative options to customers that enable them to customize their travel experi-

ence with superior products they value.

United offers Economy Plus on all 359 mainline aircraft and more than 150 larger regional jets operated by United Express® carriers. When the multi-year conversion process is complete, the company plans to offer Economy Plus on more than 700 mainline aircraft, including all Continental mainline aircraft, as well as larger regional aircraft. When fully deployed, the new United’s fleet will include more than 40,000 Economy Plus seats, providing more than 122,000 Economy Plus seats each day, the largest amount of extra legroom economy seating available to customers of any airline in the world.

United introduced Economy Plus in 1999, offering up to five inches of additional legroom to customers seated in the forward section of United Economy®. Customers with elite status in United’s Mileage Plus and Continental’s OnePass frequent-flyer programs may confirm seat assignments in Economy Plus, when available. Customers may also purchase seat assignments in Economy Plus when making reservations via united.com and continental.com, through a reservation agent, or during the check-in process at home or at the airport.

Obama talks jobs with Jobs, other tech leaders

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is assembling the biggest names in Silicon Valley to confer on jobs and innovation, trying to get leaders from companies like Google and Apple behind his push to keep spending on high-tech initiatives even as Republicans are out to slash the budget.

Wunderkind Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg, Google chief executive Eric Schmidt, and Steve Jobs, the Apple founder and CEO who announced last month that he was taking his third medical leave, are among



Obama

a dozen business leaders meeting with Obama in California Thursday evening. Also scheduled to be there: the heads of Twitter, Yahoo, Netflix and Oracle, and the president of Stanford University.

The dinner at a private home in the San Francisco Bay area is closed to the media.

Obama wants to spend billions on clean energy, education, high-speed Internet and other programs even as his

new budget proposal calls for a five-year freeze on domestic spending in certain other areas. The approach is getting a frosty reception from newly empowered Republicans on Capitol Hill, who are pushing steep cuts to a wide range of programs and balking at new spending.

The president argues that targeted spending, including education initiatives aimed at producing a more sophisticated workforce, is crucial for job creation and future U.S. competitiveness with other nations. A stamp of approval from the Silicon Valley’s leading innovators and job creators could help.

At the same time, the president’s meeting Thursday extends outreach to the business community that he’s embarked upon since Democrats suffered steep losses in the November midterm elections. With unemployment stuck at 9 percent, Obama has been pleading with corporate America to hire.

Nation

Government shutdown? GOP, Democrats swap charges

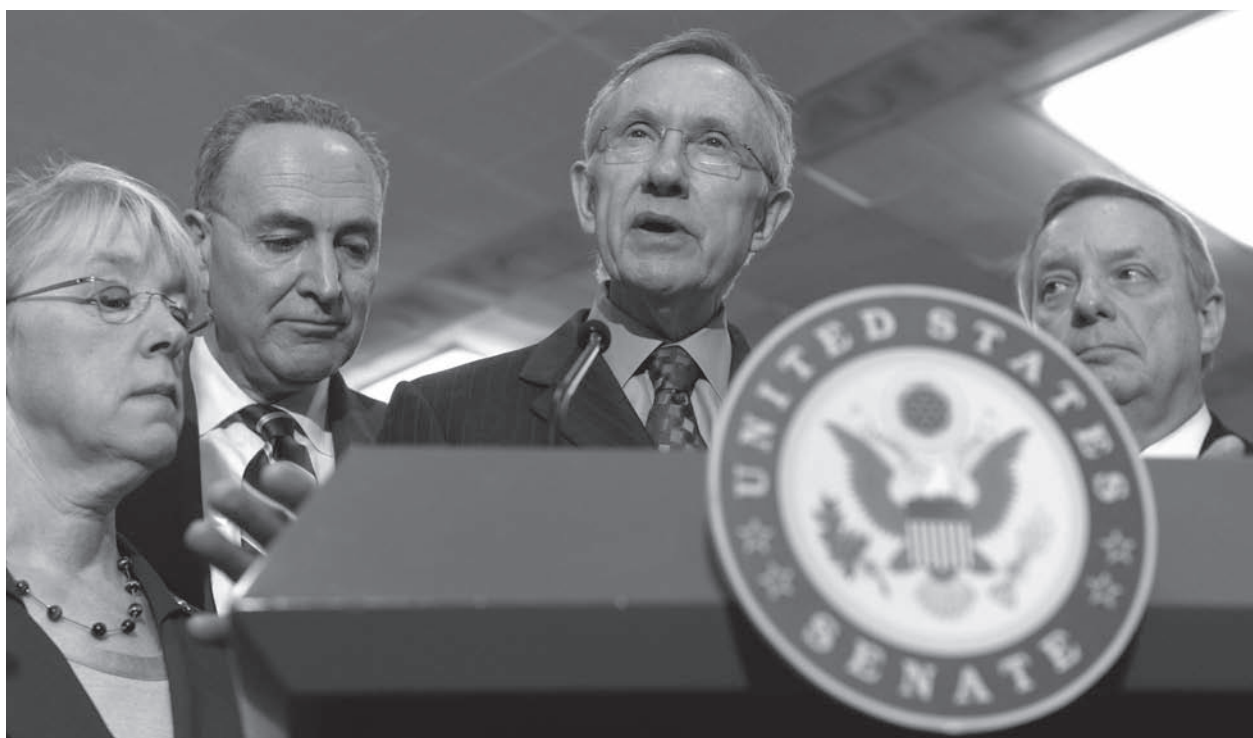
WASHINGTON (AP)—In a deepening struggle over spending, Republicans and Democrats swapped charges Thursday over a possible government shutdown when funding expires March 4 for most federal agencies.

“Read my lips: We’re going to cut spending,” declared House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who pledged that the GOP-controlled House would refuse to approve even a short-term measure at current funding levels to keep the government operating.

He prefaced his remarks by accusing Democrats of risking a shutdown “rather than to cut spending and to follow the will of the American people.” But moments later, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., retorted that Boehner was resorting “to threats of a shutdown without any negotiation.”

The sparring occurred as the House labored to complete work on veto-threatened legislation to cut more than \$61 billion from the budget year that’s more than a third over. That bill also would provide funding to keep the government operating until Sept. 30.

With that one bill at the center of a political dispute—the House has repeatedly worked well past midnight on the legislation this week—Boehner chose the moment to open a second front. To underscore the budget-cutting commitment by the 87 conservative new members of his rank and file, he announced that Republicans would move quickly this spring on companion legislation to cut “wasteful mandatory spending” by



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., second from right, responds to a statement made by House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011.

the federal government.

He provided no details, but party officials said they expected the effort to begin shortly after the House returns from next week’s recess.

The current legislation is sweeping in scope, containing cuts to literally hundreds of domestic programs, from education to environmental protection, nutrition and parks.

In addition, it has become a target for first-term conservative Republicans eager

to demonstrate their budget-cutting bona fides and for other lawmakers hoping to change the course of government in ways large or small.

In a series of votes on Thursday, for example:

■ Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Mich., was successful in cutting an additional \$20 million from the National Endowment for the Arts, already targeted for a \$23 million reduction from current levels. The vote was 217-207.

■ But by a margin of 322-104, Rep. Charlie Bass, R-N.H., lost his bid to restore \$50 million of a proposed cut in funding for low-income heating assistance.

■ Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., sought to eliminate funding for the National Labor Relations Board, but was rebuffed, 250-176. That left in place a cut of \$50 million, or 18 percent, for the agency that referees disputes between workers and employers.

House leaders had originally hoped to complete work on the bill by day’s end, but even after long hours in session this week, that appeared increasingly unlikely.

Among the dozens of proposals yet to be voted on was an attempt to block the use of funds to implement the year-old health care law, and a move to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from implementing proposed new regulations known as network neutrality.

At 359 pages, the legislation would eliminate some programs while reducing many more.

Among those targeted for elimination are the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees AmeriCorps and Senior Corps and currently has a budget in excess of \$1 billion.

Funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting would also be wiped out, at \$86 million.

The spending bill bears the strong imprint of the newly elected Republicans, many of whom were backed by tea party supporters and are sworn to reduce deficits.

An attempt by GOP leaders to send a smaller package of spending cuts to the floor was rebuffed last week by the newcomers, who said they would accept nothing less than a measure that met their commitment to the voters last fall. As candidates, they promised to cut Obama’s budget request by \$100 billion, a figure that translates to \$61 billion from current levels.

111 charged in Medicare scams worth \$225 million

MIAMI (AP)—Federal authorities charged more than 100 doctors, nurses and physical therapists in nine cities with Medicare fraud Thursday, part of a massive nationwide bust that snared more suspects than any other in history.

More than 700 law enforcement agents fanned out to arrest dozens of people accused of illegally billing Medicare more than \$225 million. The arrests are the latest in a string of major busts in the past two years as authorities have struggled to pare the fraud that’s believed to cost the government between \$60 billion and \$90 billion each year. Stopping Medicare’s budget from hemorrhaging that money will be key to paying for President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Eric Holder partnered in 2009 to allocate more money and manpower in fraud hot spots. Thursday’s indictments were for suspects in Miami, Los Angeles, Dallas, Houston, Detroit,

Chicago, Brooklyn, Tampa, Fla., and Baton Rouge, La.

They show that “health care fraud is not easy money,” Holder said at a press conference in Washington.

A podiatrist performing partial toenail removals was among 21 indicted in Detroit. Dr. Errol Sherman is accused of billing Medicare about \$700,000 for the costly and unnecessary procedures, which authorities said amounted to little more than toenail clippings. The podiatrist billed Medicare for 20 nail removals on three toes of one patient, according to the indictment. He charged Medicare about \$110 for each procedure.

A message could not be left at Sherman’s office Thursday.

A Brooklyn, N.Y., proctologist was charged with billing \$6.5 million for hemorrhoid removals, most of which he never performed. Dr. Boris Sachakov claimed he performed 10 hemorrhoid removals on one patient, which authorities said is not possible. An em-

ployee who answered at Sachakov’s office declined comment Thursday.

Sachakov had been arrested last year on charges related to a separate scam. Sachakov denied the charges.

Authorities also busted three physical therapy clinics in Brooklyn, run by an organized network of Russian immigrants accused of paying recruiters to find elderly patients so they could bill for nearly \$57 million in physical therapy that amounted to little more than back rubs, according to the indictment.

In Miami, two doctors and several nurses from ABC Home Health Care Inc. were charged with swindling \$25 million by writing fake prescriptions recommending nurses and other expensive aids to treat homebound patients, authorities said. The services were never provided. A message left Thursday was not immediately returned.

In total, nearly three dozen defendants were charged in Miami in various scams that topped about \$56 million.

Giffords is alert, one of first words was ‘better’

HOUSTON (AP)—Rep. Gabrielle Giffords is laughing at jokes and eating sushi and even spoke the word “better” when asked recently by her husband how she was doing. Her doctor describes her as a hard worker who diligently completes her therapy each day.

Giffords has been going through her rehabilitation in a room adorned with pictures of her family and notes of encouragement as she recovers from a bullet wound to the head suffered during a political event last month. She is several weeks into a process that medical experts say will be a lengthy and grueling effort.

Her doctor said patients with injuries similar to Giffords have good and bad days. Sometimes, they will make progress and improve for several days and then encounter a day when their muscles are not as strong as expected or they are tired.

“It happens quite frequently. We don’t even panic anymore, because

that happens,” said Dr. Gerard Francisco, who heads the team of specialists treating Giffords.

Those who have spent time with Giffords said she has reached several impressive milestones. She is able to mouth the words to songs such as “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.” She is eating meals on a consistent basis, whether it’s hospital food or sushi or matzo ball soup brought to her bedside by her rabbi.

Her top aide has said Giffords knows she was shot, but doesn’t know about the deaths and injuries to those around her. A close family friend said one of her first words was “better” after her husband asked her, “How are you?”

“There’s lots of excitement as she continues to speak more and improve,” said family friend Tilman Fertitta, who has spent time with her family and friends and visited the congresswoman. “She’s in a great mood and working hard.”

ACROSS THE NATION

Fla. agency under fire for death in toxic truck

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—For four days, Florida child welfare investigators searched for missing 10-year-old twins. They made home and school visits, called the children’s father on his cell phone, talked to their mother and contacted relatives. Now, agency officials are being slammed for one call they didn’t make: They never reached out to police. By the time police were notified,

the little girl, Nubia, was dead, wrapped in plastic bags in the back of her father’s exterminator truck parked alongside Interstate 95. Her brother, Victor, was in the front seat, coated in a toxic chemical with critical burns.

Poor stacked in mass graves at Illinois cemetery

CHICAGO (AP)—Stillborn babies are buried by the dozens in the same wooden box and the bodies of indigent

adults are stacked in mass graves at a Chicago-area cemetery that inters the county’s poor and unknown dead, authorities said Thursday. Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart called for a review of the cemetery’s contract at a news conference in which he criticized the operation for haphazard practices and restated his belief that the state needs legislation requiring DNA collection on all unidentified bodies. Homewood Memorial Gardens President Tom Flynn told The

Associated Press that the cemetery follows protocol and does the best it can for the \$239 it receives per body. He said the cemetery was being made a scapegoat and suggested Dart was trying to drum up attention for the legislation.

Man opens fire on girlfriend along Vegas freeway

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A fight in a moving vehicle ended in gunfire after a man shot his female acquaintance and

was then shot by officers on a bustling freeway near the Las Vegas Strip, police said. Las Vegas police Lt. Lewis Roberts said the alleged gunman and woman were in critical condition after the Thursday afternoon shooting near an exit on Interstate 15. The couple was riding in a red sports utility vehicle with two male friends when the gunman began arguing with the woman. Police say the man punched one of his friends and then assaulted the woman.

Asia

Frozen wages, immigration fuel Singapore squeeze



Foreign kitchen staff take out the trash while in the background, a line of parallel old shophouses lead out into new residential development, Thursday Feb. 17, 2011 in Singapore.

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singaporean Ramzi Mohamed is tired of sleeping in the living room of the two-bedroom apartment he shares with his mother and older brother.

His problem is that housing prices in the city-state are up almost 70 percent since 2006 while the 29-year-old gym administrator's monthly salary of 1,200 Singapore dollars (\$938) hasn't budged in five years.

"When I was 20, I thought I'd have my own place by 30," Ramzi said. "Now that I'm almost 30, I wonder if that will ever happen."

Like tens of thousands of others living in the tiny island nation that boasts one of the world's highest levels of GDP per person, Ramzi's failure to realize his modest ambitions is

no accident.

A flood of cheap immigrant labor—and stiff competition for manufacturing jobs from Asian neighbors like China and Vietnam—has kept wages stagnant for many and widened the gulf between a very wealthy minority and the island's poorest. Housing prices have skyrocketed as rapid population growth outstrips supply.

At the same time, ostentatious signs of the wealth enjoyed by the elite have multiplied. That has put the government under pressure to loosen its tightfisted stance on welfare in the next national budget Friday as it tries to defuse criticism its policies have worsened the plight of ordinary Singaporeans.

The government must also call general elections by Febru-

ary 2012. Analysts expect the ruling People's Action Party, which has held power since independence in 1965, to maintain its overwhelming majority in parliament. But if poorer Singaporeans who feel left out of the country's prosperity bring their discontent to the polls, the government could find itself with a weaker mandate and the beginnings of a stronger opposition.

"The lowest income group has struggled to stay afloat," said Irvin Seah, an analyst at Singapore's biggest bank DBS. "Plainly, not everyone has benefited equally from the economic growth that has occurred over the past decade."

Singapore's economy—which relies on manufacturing, finance and tourism—grew a record 14.5 percent last year.

Bay as water raced inside the wooden vessel, sucking it down and killing 12 people from nine countries. Vacationers from the U.S., Britain, Australia, Japan, Russia, France, Sweden and Switzerland died along with their Vietnamese tour guide Thursday in Vietnam's deadliest tour boat accident since the country opened to foreign visitors 25 years ago. All were sleeping on the overnight ship, which was anchored in about 30 feet (10 meters) of water near a small island. Nine foreigners and six Vietnamese survived only by flinging themselves overboard and swimming to other tour boats anchored nearby.

10,000 Fijians attend funeral for former president

VISEISEI VILLAGE, Fiji (AP)—Some 10,000 people packed a village in Fiji on Thursday for a state funeral for former President Ratu Josefa Iloilo, a tribal chief who backed the latest military takeover of the South Pacific country. Iloilo, who had

a longtime heart condition, died Feb. 7 in the capital, Suva, at age 91. He served as president from 2000 to late 2009, having been appointed to the country's highest office shortly after the collapse of the country's third military coup. He became a key ally of armed forces chief Commodore Frank Bainimarama, who overthrew the elected government in a December 2006 coup.

Australian diver killed by 2 great white sharks

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—Police say a diver has been killed by two great white sharks off the south Australian coast. Police Insp. Glen Sickerdick told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio the abalone diver was surfacing Thursday when he was attacked near Port Lincoln in South Australia state. An ambulance service spokeswoman told Australian Associated Press the skipper of the dive boat saw the attack and returned alone to Port Lincoln where he was treated for shock. Sickerdick says a search for the diver's remains will begin Friday.

World

Bahrain locked down after 5 killed

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Bahrain's leaders banned public gatherings and sent tanks into the streets Thursday, intensifying a crackdown that killed five anti-government protesters, wounded more than 200 and turned a hospital into a cauldron of anguish and rage against the monarchy.

Bahrain's streets were mostly empty after the bloody clampdown, but thousands defied authorities by marching in cities in Libya and Yemen as the wave of political unrest continued in the wake of uprisings that toppled leaders in Egypt and Tunisia.

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Funeral mourners are chanting against Bahrain's rulers as they bury dead from a crushing assault on pro-reform protesters that has brought army tanks into the streets of the tiny Gulf nation.

The first funerals are taking place outside a village mosque for three men killed in the pre-dawn attack on a protest encampment in Bahrain's capital Manama. At least two others died in the fierce crackdown and more than 200 were injured.

About 200 Shiite mourners waved banners and cried slogans Friday against Bahrain's Sunni monarchy as the burials began.

The tiny kingdom of Bahrain is a key part of Washington's military counterbalance to Iran by hosting the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Bahrain's rulers and their Arab allies depict any sign of unrest among their Shiite populations as a move by neighboring Shiite-majority Iran to expand its clout in the region.

While part of the recent revolt in the Arab world, the underlying tensions in Bahrain are decades old and pit the majority Shiites against the Sunni elite.

After allowing several days of rallies in the capital of Manama by disaffected Shiites, the island nation's Sunni rulers unleashed riot police who

stormed a protest encampment in Pearl Square before dawn, firing tear gas, beating demonstrators or blasting them with shotgun sprays of birdshot. Along with two who died in clashes with police Monday, the new killings brought the death toll this week in Bahrain to seven.

The willingness to resort to violence against largely peaceful demonstrators was a sign of how deeply the monarchy fears the repercussions of a prolonged wave of protests.

In the government's first public comment on the crackdown, Foreign Minister Khalid Al Khalifa said it was necessary because the demonstrators were "polarizing the country" and pushing it to the "brink of the sectarian abyss."

Speaking to reporters after an emergency meeting with his Gulf counterparts in Manama to discuss the unrest, he called the violence "regrettable," said the deaths would be investigated and added that authorities chose to clear the square by force at 3 a.m.—when the fewest number of people would be in the square—to minimize any possibility of casualties.

Many of the protesters were sleeping and said they received little warning of the assault.

In the wake of the bloodshed, angry demonstrators who milled around one hospital for treatment or to transport wounded friends and relatives chanted: "The regime must go!"

They stomped on and burned pictures of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa outside the emergency ward at Salmaniya Medical Complex, the main hospital where most of the casualties were taken.

"We are even angrier now," shouted Makki Abu Taki, after viewing the birdshot-riddled body of his son in the hospital morgue. "They think they can clamp down on us, but they have made us angrier. We will take to the streets in larger numbers and honor our martyrs. The time for Al Khalifa has ended."

The Obama administration

expressed alarm over the violent crackdown. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called the foreign minister to register Washington's "deep concern" and urge restraint. Similar criticism came from Britain and the European Union, and Human Rights Watch urged Bahraini authorities to order security forces to stop attacks on peaceful protesters.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the U.S. has been encouraging reforms in the region for some time.

"The truth is I think the U.S. has consistently—primarily privately, but also publicly—encouraged these regimes for years to undertake political and economic reforms because the pressures were building," Gates told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "And now they need to move on with it and there is an urgency to this."

Analysts said the wave of unrest has so concerned leaders in the Gulf that they are willing to risk bloodshed.

"It was one thing when it was happening in Tunisia and Egypt and another when it arrives on their doorstep," said Toby Jones, an expert on Bahrain at Rutgers University. "The (Gulf rulers) are closing ranks now and showing how they are prepared to deal with challenges to their power. Their first instinct is to act quickly. It may be messy, but they don't want this to linger."

"They see that (if) it can happen in Bahrain, it could happen anywhere—something that was unthinkable just weeks ago," Jones added.

The protesters have two main objectives: force the ruling Sunni monarchy to give up its control over top government posts and all critical decisions, and address deep grievances held by the country's majority Shiites who make up 70 percent of Bahrain's 500,000 citizens but claim they face systematic discrimination and poverty and are effectively blocked from key roles in public service and the military.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan police: Suicide bombing in east kills 8

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan police say a car bomber has killed eight, including two policemen, in the eastern Afghan city of Khost. Abdul-Hakim Isaqzai, the police chief in Khost province, says the powerful explosion occurred Friday morning at a checkpoint inside the city. Amir Pacha, director of hospitals in the province, says 30 other people, mostly civilians, were wounded in the blast. The police chief says officers were suspicious of the bomber, who then detonated his car full of explosives. Houses and shops in the area were damaged in the explosion.

Vietnam tour boat sinking kills 12 from 9 nations

HA LONG BAY, Vietnam (AP)—Italian traveler Stefano Corda felt an ominous tilt as dinner was served, but his tour boat crew assured him everything was fine. A few hours later, Corda and his friend jumped for their lives into Vietnam's famed Ha Long

WORLD BRIEFS

Suspect arrested in shootings outside Mexico City

TOLUCA, Mexico (AP)—A suspect was arrested Thursday in three shootings that killed 20 people on the outskirts of Mexico City, attacks authorities blame on a brutal cartel trying to seize drug-dealing territory in the capital. Juan Carlos Vasconcelos, 24, is suspected of leading a team of hit men for La Familia cartel, said Alfredo Castillo, attorney general of Mexico state, which borders the capital. He

was arrested along with two alleged accomplices. Castillo said Vasconcelos was behind three shootings in two sprawling, gritty neighborhoods on the outskirts of Mexico City. The first left five people dead on Jan. 8. Another killed eight people Jan. 16 and the third left seven dead Feb. 13.

2 Haiti presidential candidates start campaigns

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The two candidates in

Haiti's presidential runoff election launched their official campaigns Thursday, providing voters with a sharp contrast in tone and style. Mirlande Manigat, a 70-year-old law professor and former first lady, sedately spoke to journalists on the grounds of an upscale hotel that was leveled in the capital's 2010 earthquake. She discussed her plans to improve education, contain cholera, and move hundreds of thousands of Haitians out of encampments where they have been living since the disaster.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Mobile passport services to be extended to Rota

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With the scheduled mobile passport services on Tinian today and tomorrow, the Philippine Consulate General plans to extend the same opportunity to all Filipinos on Rota.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said the consular services on Rota will be held on March 12 and 13, from 8am to 5pm; the venue will be announced soon.

Macaraig will be joined by labor representative Carmelina Velasquez, Rowena Tolosa, Nerisa Anastacio, and Antonio David during the consular services.

According to Macaraig, the mobile services on Rota will utilize the new mobile ePassport technology, just like what would be done on Tinian.

The Consulate would have served all three major islands of the CNMI with



Macaraig

state-of-the-art ePassport technology after these services, he added.

"The consular services in Rota would help our *kababayans* [compatriots] as they do not need to go to Saipan to apply for ePassport," he told *Saipan Tribune* by email.

Macaraig said the mobile services will also serve as an opportunity for the Consulate to get an update on

what is going on in Rota.

"As you very well know, there are some things that are better understood during an actual visit than through reports or telephone calls," he said.

The consul general said that passport requirements remain the same, except for the photograph, which is no longer required.

Requirements for passport application and other consular documents may be found on the website www.philippinesaipan.org.

To facilitate the process and allow the Consulate to serve more Filipinos, Macaraig urged passport applicants to download the application form from the Consulate website and send the accomplished form by fax to 234-1849, email to saipanpcg@pticom.com, or mail to P.O. Box 500731 Saipan, MP 96950 CNMI.

Macaraig added that they will also offer mobile consular services for Filipinos on Rota very soon.

For information, call 234-1848, fax 234-1850 or email saipanpcg@pticom.com.

Filipino community to mark 25th anniversary of EDSA Revolution

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General is inviting the Filipino community in the Commonwealth to join the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the People Power Revolution next Friday, Feb. 25.

Also known as the EDSA Revolution, the People Power Revolution

was a series of peaceful revolutions involving prayerful mass street demonstrations along Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue in 1986 that eventually toppled Ferdinand Marcos' repressive regime.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said he and Consulate staff will be hosting a flag raising ceremony at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza at 8am followed by a short program at the Filipino Workers Resource Center.

The theme for this year's celebration is "EDSA 25: Pilipino Ako, Ako ang Lakas ng Pagbabago" ("I am Filipino, I am the force for change").

Macaraig said his remarks will focus on the lessons of the 1986 revolution and its relevance to Filipinos in the CNMI.

He said the flag ceremony is only one of the activities lined up to mark the 25 years that spanned since the glorious events at EDSA in 1986.

A teacher with her hands

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Andy Roda certainly has her hands full.

As team leader and lead therapist at Hyatt Regency Saipan's luxurious urban spa, i Sagua Spa, Roda not only guides her team on the ins and outs of spa treatments and massage techniques but is also involved in constantly developing menu services and learning more skills to ensure customer satisfaction.

With more than eight years tucked under her belt, Roda is a seasoned spa professional whose skills are constantly being upgraded through professional development trainings at par with the highest level of standards of Hyatt Pure spas worldwide.

Roda recounts undergoing extensive trainings conducted by the Hyatt support team, both on Saipan and at the Grand Hyatt Seoul, as well as trainings carried out by the expert team of Kerstin Florian, the company that manufactures facial, body and bath products and treatments used at i Sagua Spa.

According to Roda, these trainings are so comprehensive that they include proper techniques of handling cotton balls and towels as well as the correct way of applying spa products.

But unknown to many, i Sagua Spa's team leader and therapist first discovered and developed her spa-savvy skills only when she arrived on Saipan in 1990.

A native of Romblon province in the Philippines, Roda actually graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Manuel L. Quezon



With more than eight years tucked under her belt, Andy Roda is a seasoned spa professional.

CLARISSA DAVID

University in Manila.

Roda, however, did not have the opportunity to use her college education since she flew to Saipan right after college.

She arrived on island in 1990 to work as a wait staff for a year before she got inspired and was taught by a friend the basics of massage therapy.

Armed with basic massage skills, Roda worked at Hyatt's Club Elan for a year then decided to work at a brand new spa resort for two years.

"Working for Hyatt and another company, I must say my experience with the Hyatt was better. They really want their

staff to be knowledgeable and professional so they provide us trainings. The working environment was more favorable, too," Roda told *Saipan Tribune*.

Was there any regret about not being able to apply what she learned in college? "No regrets at all," Roda said. "I love what I do. With my acquired spa skills, I get to use them with my family and friends. I really enjoy it."

Then again, Roda believes that she is still a teacher despite her chosen career path. "I am still a teacher in my own way. I get to educate my co-workers with what I've learned from all the trainings I've attended," she said with a smile.



Mga tanong at sagot ukol sa E-2 CNMI-only investor program

Ang U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ay nagpaskil ng pinal na patakaran sa *Pederal na Rehistro* na lumilikha ng hindi imigranteng klasipikasyon ng visa ng namumuhunan sa Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Ang "E-2 CNMI na Visa ng Namumuhunan" ay nagpapahintulot sa banyagang pangmatagalang-panahong mga namumuhunan na manatili sa CNMI hanggang Disyembre 2014 at nilayon na tumulong sa transisyon sa batas imigrasyon ng U.S. sa CNMI. Ang pinal na patakaran ito ay nagpapatupad sa isa sa mga partikular na probisyon ng CNMI na Consolidated Natural Resources Act ng 2008, na nagpapalawig ng mga batas imigrasyon ng Estados Unidos sa CNMI.

Ang Consolidated Natural Resources Act ng 2008, o CNRA, Publikong Batas 110-229 ay isinabatas noong Mayo 8, 2008. Ang Pamagat VII ng batas na ito ay nagpapalawig ng mga batas ng imigrasyon ng Estados Unidos sa CNMI. Ang isang probisyon ng CNRA ay nagpapahintulot sa Kalihim ng Homeland Security na iklasipika, sa panahon ng transisyon, ang banyagang namumuhunan sa CNMI bilang isang E2 hindi migranteng namumuhunan. Ang panahon ng transisyong ito ay pormal na nagsimula noong Nob. 28, 2009 ay nakatakdang magtapos sa Dis. 31, 2014. Naaayon dito, ang patakaran ng USCIS ay nagpapahintulot ng banyagang pangmatagalang-panahong mga namumuhunan na manirahan sa CNMI hanggang Disyembre 2014 gamit ang kalagayang CNMI E-2 hindi migranteng namumuhunan. Ang patakaran ito ay pansamantalang magresolba sa kalagayang ng imigrasyon ng mga pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunan sa CNMI at naglalaan sa kanila ng oras para makakuha ng ibang naaayon sa batas na kalagayan sa imigrasyon sa ilalim ng mga probisyon ng Batas sa Imigrasyon at Pagkamamamayan (Immigration and Nationality Act) (INA). Katulad ng iba pang mga benepisyo sa imigrasyon, ang mga indibiduwal ay dapat mag-apply para sa kalagayang E-2

CNMI ng Namumuhunan.

Q1. Bakit nilikha ng USCIS ang patakaran ito?

A1. Bilang inatas ng CNRA, ang pinal na patakaran ito ay pinahihintulutan ang mga pangmatagalang panahong banyagang namumuhunan sa CNMI na mag-apply para sa kalagayang CNMI-lang na E-2 hindi migranteng mga namumuhunan. Nilikha ng USCIS ang pang-transisyong regulasyong probisyon na ito dahil sa bukod-tanging uri ng mga namumuhunan sa CNMI na hindi sa halip ay agad nararapat na makakuha ng migrante o hindi migranteng mga klasipikasyon ng visa sa U.S..

Q2. Ano ang CNMI-lang na E-2 hindi migranteng kalagayan ng namumuhunan?

A2. Ang patakaran ay nagtataguyod ng transisyonal na kalagayan na hindi umiiral sa Estados Unidos upang pansamantalang maresolba ang kalagayang imigrasyon ng mga pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunan sa CNMI sa pamamagitan ng pagpapahintulot sa mga banyagang pangmatagalang panahong mga namumuhunan na makakuha ng kalagayang tumira sa CNMI hanggang Disyembre 2014.

Q3. Bakit pansamantala ang katagoryang ito?

A3. Nilalan lang ng CNRA ang kalagayang ito sa panahon ng transisyon. Ang E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan ay nilayong tumulong sa transisyon patungong batas sa imigrasyon ng U.S. sa CNMI. Ang mga namumuhunang ito ay kailangang kumuha ng ibang migrante o hindi migranteng mga klasipikasyon ng visa ng U.S. sa katapusan ng panahon ng transisyon, o Dis. 31, 2014.

Q4. Anong mga uri ng pahintulot sa trabaho ang kasalukuyang ginagamit ng mga namumuhunan sa CNMI?

A4. Dahil sa ang panahon ng transisyon ay nagsimula noong Nob. 28, 2009, karamihan ng mga namumuhunan ay patuloy na nagtatrabaho sa ilalim ng ng ibinigay ng CNMI na mga "umbrella permits" o ibang mga pahintulot.

See Q&A on next page

ntulot sa pagtatrabaho sa CNMI na ibinigay bago ang petsang iyon. Ang mga pahintulot na ito ay balido hanggang Nob. 27, 2011, o sa petsa ng pagkapaso nito, alinman ang mauna.

Q5. Ano ang mga umiiral na pangangailangan para sa banyagang namumuhunan sa ilalim ng INA?

A5. Sa ilalim ng batas imigrasyon ng U.S., ang mga banyagang namumuhunan ay kailangang pumasok sa Estados Unidos bilang mga hindi migrante sa loob ng kasunduang namumuhunang klasipikasyon na may E-2 visa o maaaring mabago sa E-2 na kasunduang namumuhunang hindi migranteng kalagayan mula sa loob ng Estados Unidos.

Upang maging kwalipikado para sa E-2 kasunduang namumuhunang kalagayan, ang kasunduang mga namumuhunan dapat ay:

■ Mamuhunan ng makabuluhang halaga ng kapital sa isang lehitimo na establisimiyento sa Estados Unidos;

■ Sikaping itaguyod at pamahalaan ang negosyo;

■ Pumasok sa Estados Unidos alinsunod sa mga probisyon ng kasunduan;

■ Maging mamamayan ng isang bansa na mayroon nang kasunduan ng pagkakaibigan, komersiyo o nabigasyon ng Estados Unidos; at

■ Layuning umalis sa Estados Unidos kapag nagtapos na ang kasunduang pamumuhunan na kalagayan.

Q6. Ano ang mangyayari sa pagtatapos ng panahon ng transisyon?

A6. Sa pagtatapos ng 2014, ang panahon ng transisyon ay mapapasok at ang E-2 CNMI namumuhunang kalagayan at visa ay mapapasok. Samakatuwid, ang mga indibiduwal sa CNMI na may E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ay dapat umalis sa CNMI sa pagtatapos ng panahon ng transisyon o maging kwalipikado para sa at kumuha ng ibang hindi migrante o migranteng kalagayan upang manatili ayon sa batas sa CNMI.

Q7. Kailan magtatapos ang panahon ng transisyon?

A7. Ang programang transisyon ay tatagal hanggang Disyembre 31, 2014.

Q8. Ang alin mang pagpapalawig ng panahon ng transisyon, bilang natukoy ng Kalihim ng Manggagawa, ay makakaapekto ba sa pagiging karapat-dapat para sa CNMI-lang na mga namumuhunang visa?

A8. Hindi. Ang CNMI-lang na kalagayan ng namumuhunan ay magtatapos sa pagtatapos ng panahon ng transisyon. Ang anumang pagpapalawig ng Kalihim ng Manggagawa ay ipapataw lang sa CNMI na kategorya ng transisyonal na manggagawa. Bilang mandato ng CNRA, ang mga probisyon sa namumuhunan ay magtatapos sa Dis. 31, 2014, alinman kung may pagpapalawig sa probisyon sa transisyonal na manggagawa na maganap.

Q9. Anong mga kalagayang hindi migrante o migrante ang maaaring patalaan ng mga namumuhunan sa CNMI?

A9. Iyan ay depende sa mga indibiduwal na kaganapan. Ang mga namumuhunan ng

kukuha ng E-2 CNMI na hindi migranteng kalagayan ay mayroon hanggang sa pagtatapos ng 2014 upang ayusin o baguhin ang kalagayan nila. (Kahalin-tulad, ang mga namumuhunan sa CNMI ay kailangang mag-apply para sa hindi migrante o migrante na kalagayan kung saan sila kwalipikado nang hindi muna kukuha ng E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng namumuhunan, subalit, hindi nila maaaring isaayos ang kalagayan sa isang kalagayan ng namumuhunan na batay sa negosyo nang hindi muna kumuha ng batay sa INA na hindi migranteng kalagayan.) Ang ilang mga halimbawa ng migrante o hindi migranteng kalagayan na maaaring karapat-dapat ang Namumuhunang E-2 CNMI ay:

■ Upang maging kwalipikado para sa isang L-1A hindi migranteng chekutibo o tagapamahalang visa;

■ Pagsasaayos ng kalagayan batay sa kalagayan ng mga miyembro ng pamilya; o

■ Pagkwalipika sa ilalim ng namumuhunan o batay sa pag-employo na mga visa.

Q10. Ano ang mangyayari sa mga dependyente sa mga E-2 na Namumuhunan sa CNMI sa panahon ng transisyon?

A10. Sa panahon ng transisyon, ang mga dependyente (mga asawa at mga anak) ay maaaring maging kwalipikado para sa kalagayang umaasa sa ilalim ng pinal na patakaran ng E-2 Namumuhunan sa CNMI. Ang mga dependyente ay susunod sa karaniwang mga pamamaraan alinsunod sa mga pagpapalawig o mga pagbabago ng kalagayan para sa mga hindi migrante.

Sa pagtatapos ng panahon ng transisyon, ang mga asawa at mga anak ay sasailalim din sa parehong mga regulasyon katulad ng ibang migrante. Halimbawa, kung ang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan ay kwalipikado para sa pagbabago ng kalagayan sa regular na E-2 na kalagayan sa pagtatapos ng panahon ng transisyon, ang mga dependyente sa kanya ay kailangang magpatala din para sa pagbabago ng kalagayan at magkwalipika sa ilalim ng mga probisyon ayon sa batas at regulasyon.

Q11. Sino ang kwalipikado para sa CNMI-lang na “E-2” hindi migranteng visa ng namumuhunan?

A11. Upang maging kwalipikado para sa E-2 CNMI Namumuhunang kalagayan, ang pangunahing aplikante dapat ay:

■ Natanggap sa CNMI na may pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunang visa sa ilalim ng batas imigrasyon ng CNMI bago ang Nob. 28, 2009;

■ Patuloy na nanatiling residente sa CNMI sa ilalim ng pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunang kalagayan;

■ Sa kasalukuyan ay nagpapanatili ng (mga) puhunan na bumuo ng basehan para sa CNMI pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunang kalagayan; at

■ Sa halip ay pahintulutan na pumasok sa Estados Unidos sa ilalim ng Batas ng U.S. sa Imigrasyon at Pagkamamamayan (U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act) (INA).

Q12. Aling kasalukuyang

CNMI na mga kalagayan ng namumuhunan ay kwalipikado?

A12. Mga indibiduwal na pinapasok sa CNMI sa kalagayang pangmatagalang-panahong kalagayan ng namumuhunan sa ilalim ng batas sa imigrasyon ng CNMI ay kwalipikado, partikular ang:

■ Isang pangmatagalang-panahon na namumuhunan sa negosyo na nabigyan ng pangmatagalangpanahon ng sertipiko ng negosyo ng CNMI batay sa puhunang hindi bababa sa \$50,000;

■ Isang banyagang namumuhunan na may banyagang puhunang sertipiko na binigay ng CNMI batay sa puhunang hindi bababa sa \$100,000 sa isang pinagsamang aprubadong puhunan na lagpas sa \$2 milyon o hindi bababa sa \$250,000 sa isang aprubadong puhunan; at

■ Isang retiradong namumuhunan na mas matanda sa edad 55 taong gulang na binigyan ng sertipiko para sa banyagang retiradong namumuhunan batay sa kwalipikadong puhunan sa isang aprubadong residensiya sa CNMI (ngunit hindi kasama ang dalawang-taong hindi-renewable na programang pamumuhunan ng retirado na limitado sa mga mamamayang Hapon).

Q13. Paano nagdesisyon ang USCIS kung aling mga kategorya ang kwalipikado sa ilalim ng pinal na patakaran?

A13. Tinutukoy ng CNRA ang pagpasok sa “pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunan” na kalagayan sa ilalim ng mga batas ng CNMI kapag lumilikha ng E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan. Tanging mga kategorya ng CNMI na nagmandato ng pirming pinakamababang pasimulang halaga ng puhunan at nababago sa paglipas ng ilang taon (pangmatagalang-panahon) ang tinuturing na “pangmatagalangpanahon na namumuhunan” na mga kalagayan para sa patakaran ito, ito ay ang tatlong kategoryang nakalista sa itaas (pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunan, banyagang namumuhunan at retiradong banyagang namumuhunan).

Q14. Ilang tao ang kasalukuyang nasa tatlong CNMI pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunang kategorya na ito?

A14. Tinatasa ng USCIS na may tinatayang 500 banyagang-nakarehistrong mga namumuhunan sa CNMI na mga pangmatagalang-panahong mga namumuhunang kategorya.

Q15. Aling mga CNMI na Namumuhunang kategorya ang hindi karapat-dapat para sa E-2 CNMI Namumuhunang kalagayan sa ilalim ng patakaran?

A15. Ibang mga namumuhunan, kasama ang sumusunod, ay hindi karapat-dapat para sa E-2 visa sa ilalim ng pinal na patakaran:

■ Ang sub-category ng retiradong namumuhunan ay partikular na limitado sa mga retiradong Hapon;

■ Pang-maikling panahon na mga pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyo; at

■ Pang-regular na panahon na mga pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyo.

Q16. Bakit ang sub-category

ng retiradong namumuhunan ay partikular na limitado sa mga retiradong Hapon na hindi karapat-dapat para sa E-2 namumuhunang kalagayan?

A16. Ang patakaran ay hindi nagtuturing sa kategoryang ito bilang karapat-dapat, dahil ang mga indibiduwal na ito ay hindi klasipikadong mga “pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunan.” Ang CNMI na pahintulot para sa dalawang-taong programa para sa mga retiradong Hapon ay hindi nababago at kailangan lang ng buwanang bayad sa renta sa halip na pangmatagalang-panahong puhunan.

Q17. Ano ang magagawa ng mga retiradong Hapon kapag ang pahintulot nila ay napaso?

A17. Sa Nob. 27, 2011, o sa pagpasok ng ibinigay ng CNMI na pahintulos sa retiradong Hapong namumuhunan (alinman ang mas naunang maganap), ang indibiduwal ay kailangang umalis sa CNMI maliban kung siya ay nag-apply para sa at karapat-dapat na manatili sa CNMI sa ilalim ng ibang ayon sa batas na kalagayan.

Q18. Bakit ang mga indibiduwal na may maikling-panahon at regular-na-terminong mga pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyo ay hindi karapat-dapat para sa E-2 kalagayan ng namumuhunan?

A18. Ang mga banyagang mamamayan na ayon sa batas ay pumasok sa ilalim ng CNMI maiklingpanahon na pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyo o regular-na-terminong pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyo na mga kategorya ay hindi karapat-dapat dahil ang mga pahintulot na ito ay hindi pangmatagalang-panahon at hindi kailangan ng mga puhunan.

Q19. Kung ang mga indibiduwal na may maikling-panahon at regular-na-terminong mga pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyo ay hindi karapat-dapat para sa E-2 visa ng namumuhunan, ano ang magagawa nila?

A19. Ang mga indibiduwal na may maikling-panahon at regular-na-terminong mga pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyo ay hindi magiging karapat-dapat na makakuha ng E-2 CNMI visa ng Namumuhunan at samakatuwid ay kailangang umalis sa CNMI sa pagpasok ng kanilang ibinigay ng CNMI na kalagayan o sa Nob. 27, 2011, alinman ang unang maganap O mag-apply sa at makakuha ng ibang migrante o hindi migranteng klasipikasyon sa ilalim ng INA na nagpapahintulot sa kanila na manatili sa CNMI.

Q20. Ang mga banyaga ba na may nakabinbing CNMI na aplikasyon bilang Namumuhunan sa Nob. 28, 2009, ay karapat-dapat para sa bagong E-2 CNMI kalagayan ng Namumuhunan?

A20. Ang mga banyagang mamamayan na hindi nakapasok bilang karapat-dapat na mga namumuhunang CNMI bago ang simula ng panahon ng transisyon ay hindi karapat-dapat para sa klasipikasyon bilang E-2 CNMI hindi migranteng mga namumuhunan. Samakatuwid, ang mga indibiduwal na may mga aplikasyon bilang namumuhunan sa nakabinbin sa CNMI sa epektibong petsa ng

programang transisyon ay hindi karapat-dapat para sa E-2 CNMI Namumuhunang kalagayan.

Q21. Ang indibiduwal ba na may aprubadong aplikasyon bilang namumuhunan ay karapat-dapat para sa E-2 CNMI kalagayan ng Namumuhunan?

A21. Ang isang indibiduwal na hindi nakapasok bilang karapat-dapat na namumuhunan sa CNMI bago ang Nob. 28, 2009, ay hindi karapat-dapat para sa klasipikasyon bilang E-2 CNMI hindi migranteng namumuhunan. Samakatuwid, ang indibiduwal na may aprubadong aplikasyon bilang namumuhunan ngunit hindi nakapasok sa CNMI sa petsa ng pagka-epektibo ng programang transisyon ay hindi karapatdapat para sa E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan.

Q22. Ano ang kahulugan ng kailangan sa Namumuhunang visa na E-2 sa CNMI na “patuloy na pagpapanatili ng paninirahan”? Paano kung regular na nagbibiyahang namumuhunan sa labas ng CNMI?

A22. Ang kahulugan ng “patuloy na pagpapanatili ng kanyang paninirahan sa CNMI” ay paninirahan sa CNMI mula sa petsa na ang indibiduwal ay nakamit ang kanyang kalagayan sa CNMI hanggang sa petsa kung kailan ibinigay ng USCIS ang bagong E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan. Hindi ito pareho sa patuloy na pisikal na presensiya; samakatuwid, ang namumuhunan ay hindi kailangang manatili sa CNMI sa buong panahon upang mapanatili ang patuloy na paninirahan. Inilalaan ng batas, subalit, na ang namumuhunan ay dapat pisikal na naroon sa CNMI nang hindi bababa sa kalahati ng panahon kung kailan ang patuloy na paninirahan ay kailangan. Dagdag pa, ang indibiduwal ay hindi magpapanatili ng patuloy na paninirahan kung umalis siya sa CNMI nang mahigit isang taon o umalis sa CNMI nang mahigit anim na buwan at hindi makapagpakita na hindi niya

inabandona ang kanyang paninirahan sa pagkawalang ito.

Q23. Maaari bang mawala ng namumuhunan ang kalagayan niya?

A23. Oo, maaaring mawala ng namumuhunan ang kanyang kalagayan sa imigrasyon kung hindi siya nagpanatili ng (mga) puhunan na bumuo ng basehan sa pagkakapasok. Upang maitaguyod na ang namumuhunan ay nagpapanatili ng pamumuhunan o mga pamumuhunan na bumuo sa basehan ng pagpasok sa CNMI, kailangan ng patakaran na ang bawat aplikante ay magbigay ng partikular na ebidensiya na nagpapamalas na ang namumuhunan ay tumutupad sa mga tuntunin kung saan ang sertipiko ng namumuhunan sa CNMI ay ibinigay. Dagdag pa, katulad ng nabanggit dati, maaaring mawala ng namumuhunan ang kalagayan sa imigrasyon kung hindi siya nagpanatili ng patuloy na paninirahan sa CNMI.

Q24. Anong ebidensiya ang dapat ibigay ng aplikante para sa E-2 CNMI Namumuhunan?

A24. Lahat ng dokumentasyong dati nang naisumite sa bawat aplikasyon ng namumuhunan sa gobyerno ng CNMI ay dapat isumite bilang bahagi ng bawat E-2 CNMI na petisyon sa USCIS.

Lahat ng Mga Indibiduwal

Lahat ng mga indibiduwal ay dapat magbigay ng sumusunod na ebidensiya ng ayon sa batas na pagpasok sa CNMI:

■ Isang balidong hindi pasong banyagang pasaporte; at

■ Isang maayos na naendorsesong pagpasok na dokumento sa CNMI (hal. pahintulot sa pagpasok, sertipiko ng pagpasok o visa ng banyagang namumuhunan) na may panahon ng pagkabalido na kasama ang Nob. 28, 2009.

Mga Indibiduwal na may isang ibinigay ng CNMI na pahintulot sa pagpasok ng banyagang namumuhunan o pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyong pangmatagalang-panahon

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Q&A

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Ang aplikante na may ibinigay ng CNMI na pahintulot sa pagpasok ng banyagang namumuhunan o pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyong pangmatagalang-panahon ay kailangang magsumite ng ebidensiya na magpapakitang siya ay nagpanatili ng kanyang puhunan sa E-2 CNMI aplikasyon ng Namumuhunan. Maaaring kasama sa ebidensiyang ito ang:

■ Isang liham ng pag-apruba na inilaan ng gobyerno ng CNMI;

■ Ebidensiya na ang kapital ay naipuhunan, katulad ng mga statement ng bangko, mga resibo o mga kontrata para sa mga ari-ariang binili, mga talaan ng transaksiyon sa pagbili ng stock, utang o ibang mga kasunduan sa paghiram, mga upa sa lupa, mga pinansiyal statement, mga resibo sa kabuuang buwis ng negosyo, o ibang mga kasunduan na sumusupporta sa aplikasyon;

■ Ebidensiya na ang aplikante ay namuhunan ng pinakamababang kailangang halaga, katulad ng ebidensiya ng mga biniling pag-aari o pag-aaring nilipat mula sa ibayong dagat para magamit sa negosyo, ebidensiya ng perang nalipat o naipangako sa bago o umiiral na negosyo kapalit ng mga hati ng stock, anumang utang o pagkakasanla, pangakong sulat, kasunduan sa seguridad o ibang ebidensiya ng paghiram na nakaseguro ng mga pag-aari ng aplikante;

■ Isang komprehensibang plano ng negosyo para sa mga bagong negosyo;

■ Mga artikulo ng inkorporasyon, by-laws, kasunduan sa pagsososyo, mga kasunduan sa joint venture, detalye ng korporasyon at taunang mga ulat, mga sinumpaang salaysay, mga deklarasyon o mga sertipikasyon ng bayad-na na kapital;

■ Kasalukuyang mga lisen-siya ng negosyo;

■ Mga talaan ng rehistrasyon ng banyagang negosyo, mga kamakailang pagbabalik ng buwis ng anumang uri, ebidensiya ng ibang mga pagmumulan ng kapital;

■ Listahan ng lahat ng naninirahan at hindi naninirahang mga empleyado;

■ Isang listahan ng lahat ng mga mayhawak ng mga sertipiko ng negosyo para sa nakatatag na negosyo; o

■ Isang listahan ng lahat ng mga korporasyon kung saan ang aplikante ay may namamahalang interes.

Para sa may-hawak ng sertipiko ng banyagang namumuhunan, ang mga kopya ng taunang ulat ng mga aktibidad sa puhunan sa CNMI na nagpapakita na ang may hawak ng sertipiko ay nasa ilalim ng patuloy na pagtupad sa mga pamanatayang kailangan. Ang bawat ulat ay dapat may kasamang taunang pinansiyal na audit na ulat na isinagawa ng independiyenteng sinertipikuhanang pamublikong accountant.

Mga indibiduwal na may ibinigay ng CNMI na pahintulot sa retiradong namumuhunan

Ang mga retiradong namumuhunan ng CNMI ay dapat

magsumite ng sumusunod kasama ang kanilang aplikasyon para sa E-2 CNMI na kalagayan sa Namumuhunan:

■ Patunay na ang banyagang aplikante ay may interes sa pag-ari sa CNMI, katulad na kasunduan sa upa;

■ Patunay ng halaga ng ari-arian, katulad ng appraisal; at

■ Patunay ng anumang pagpapatubut sa ari-arian, na maaaring may kasamang mga resibo o mga invoice ng mga gastos sa pagpapagawa, ang halagang binayaran para sa umiiral nang istraktura o isang appraisal ng mga pagpapatubut.

Q25. Kailan maaaring magpatala para sa E-2 CNMI kalagayan ng Namumuhunan ang mga indibiduwal?

A25. Ang mga petisyon para sa E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan ay maaaring maisumite sa Ene. 18, 2011. Anumang mga petisyong nangangailangan bago ang Ene. 18, 2011 ay tatanggapin. Ang mga namumuhunang E-2 CNMI ay maaaring mag-apply para sa mga pagbabago ng kalagayan sa alinmang hindi migrante o migranteng mga klasipikasyon ng visa kung saan sila ay maaaring kwalipikado anumang oras sa panahon ng transisyon.

Q26. Ano ang pinal na petsa na ang mga petisyon ay tatanggapin para sa E-2 CNMI Namumuhunang visa?

A26. Ang pinal na katanggap-tanggap ng petsa sa inisyal na E-2 CNMI na magpetisyon ng namumuhunan ay sa Ene. 18, 2013.

Q27. Anong aplikasyon ang dapat isumite para sa E-2 CNMI visa ng Namumuhunan?

A27. Ang umiiral na Form I-129, Tagapetisyon para sa isang Hindi Migranteng Manggagawa, kasama ang Suplemento E ay ang form sa aplikasyon na gagamitin para humiling ng E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan.

Q28. Magkano ang aplikasyon?

A28. Ang bayad sa pagproseso ng Form I-129 ay \$325. Dagdag pa, ang bayad sa biometrics para sa mga aplikanteng nasa CNMI na nagpapatata para sa inisyal na pagbibigay ng kalagayan ay \$85.

Q29. Saan ako dapat magpatala ng aplikasyon?

A29. Karamihan ng mga aplikasyon sa migrasyon sa U.S., kasama ang Form I-129, ay pinadadala sa koreo. Ang mga detalyadong tagubilin para sa bawat form, kasama ang address kung saan dapat ipadala ang aplikasyon, ay mahahanap on-line sa www.uscis.gov/forms. Lahat ng mga E-2C na petisyon ay ipadadala sa California Service Center sa: P.O. Box 10698, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-1098. Lahat ng mga courier/express na pagpapatala ay dapat ipadala sa 24000 Avila Road, 2nd Floor, Room 2312, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677.

Dapat nasa CNMI ka o sa labas ng Estados Unidos sa panahon na ang aplikasyon mo ay isinumite sa USCIS. Kung nasa labas ka ng Estados Unidos sa pag-apruba, kailangan mong kumuha ng E-2 CNMI Namumuhunang hindi migranteng visa sa isang Embahada ng Estados Unidos o konsulado sa ibayong dagat upang makapa-

sok sa CNMI bilang isang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan.

Q30. Mayroon bang pagpaubaya sa bayad?

A30. Oo, ang pinal na patakaran ay nagpapahintulot na ang aplikante ay magsumite para sa pagpaubaya sa bayad. Kung nais mong magpatala sa pagpaubaya ng bayad, kailangan mong kumpletuhin at isumite ang Form I-912, Hiling para sa Pagpaubaya ng Bayad kasama ang Form I-129 na petisyon.

Q31. Bakit pinapahintulot ng patakaran ang pagpaubaya ng bayad para sa “namumuhunan” na gagawa ng makabuluhang perang puhunan upang makakuha ng visa?

A31. Ang pagpaubaya ng bayad sa pagsusumite ng Form I-129 ay karaniwang hindi pinahihintulutan. Subalit, pinahihintulutan ng USCIS ang pagpaubaya na limitado sa mga namumuhunan sa ilalim ng patakaran ito sa CNMI dahil sa kasalukuyang hindi mabuting ekonomikong kondisyon doon at dahil ang mga retirado at mga may-ari ng maliliit na negosyo ay kasama sa bagong hindi migranteng kategoryang ito. Ang probisyon sa pagpaubaya ng bayad ay limitado sa mga nagpapakita ng hindi kakayahang magbayad. Naiintindihan ng USCIS na ang ilang karapat-dapat na mga retiradong Namumuhunan sa CNMI ay maaaring namuhunan ng karamihan sa ipon nila sa mga pamumuhunang tirahan, at maaaring nabubuhay sa mga pirming kita at maaaring maging kwalipikado para sa mga pagpaubaya.

Ang mga aplikante sa CNMI na nagpapatata para sa inisyal na pagbibigay ng kalagayan ay kailangan ring magsumite ng bayad sa serbisyonang biometric. Ang bayad na ito ay mapapaubaya para sa walang kakayahang magbayad sa ilalim ng mga kasalukuyang regulasyon ng USCIS.

Q32. Ano ang aking magagawa kung tinanggihan ang aking aplikasyon?

A32. Katulad ng ibang mga adyudikasyon ng Form I-129, ang pagtanggap ng E-2 CNMI na aplikasyon ng namumuhunan ay maaaring iapila sa USCIS Administrative Appeals Office para sa pagrebaso.

Q33. Ang kalagayan sa imigrasyon ba ay umaabot sa mga dependyente sa mga E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan?

A33. Ang patakaran ay nagpapahintulot sa mga dependyente sa prinsipal ng E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan na samahan o sumunod na sumama sa pangunahing namumuhunan, anuman ang pagkamamamayan ng mga kwalipikado para sa kalagayang ito, ang asawa at mga anak ay dapat maaaring makapasok sa Estados Unidos sa ilalim ng INA. Ayon sa nakabalangkas sa ibaba, upang makakuha ng kalagayang ito, ang dependyenteng nakatira sa CNMI ay kailangang magsumite ng Form I-539, Aplikasyon na Palawigin/Baguhin ang Kalagayan.

Q34. Paano makakakuha ang depenyenteng (asawa o anak) ng deribatibang E-2 CNMI na kalagayan sa Namumuhunan?

A34. Kung ang dependyente

ay nakatira sa CNMI, siya ay kailangang magsumite ng Form I-539, Aplikasyon na Palawigin/Baguhin ang Kalagayan. Ang bayad sa form na ito ay \$290, at ang bayad sa biometric ay \$85 kung humihiling ng inisyal na pagbigay ng kalagayan sa CNMI. Ang mga pagpaubaya sa bayad ay para sa walang kakayahang magbayad. Kung nasa ibayong dagat, ang asawa at/o anak ay hindi dapat magsumite ng Form I-539 ngunit ang bawat dependyente ay dapat mag-apply para sa isang E-2 CNMI visa sa angkop ng embahada ng U.S. o konsulado.

Q35. Para gaano katagal balido ang E-2 CNMI visa ng Namumuhunan?

A35. Ang inisyal na panahon sa admisyon ay dalawang taon. Sa pag-apruba ng (mga) aplikasyon para sa kalagayang deribatiba, ang asawa at mga menor-de-edad na anak na kasama o susunod upang sumama sa isang E-2 CNMI na namumuhunan ay papapasukin para sa parehong panahon na ang prinsipal na namumuhunan ay nasa balidong E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan.

Q36. Ano ang mangyayari sa mga dependyente kung ang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan ay pansamantalang umalis mula sa CNMI?

A36. Ang deribatibang kalagayan ng dependyenteng asawa at mga anak ay hindi maaapektuhan, basta ang pamilyang relasyon ay patuloy at ang prinsipal ay nananatiling karapat-dapat para sa pagpasok bilang E-2 CNMI na namumuhunan.

Q37. Paano pamamahalaan ang mga pahintulot sa trabaho?

A37. Lahat ng E-2 CNMI pahintulot sa pagtatrabaho ng Namumuhunang prinsipal at asawa ay limitado sa pagtatrabaho sa CNMI. Ang ilang mga namumuhunan at mga asawa nila ay narapat na magtatrabaho sa CNMI.

Ang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan ay awtorisadong magtatrabaho sa partikular na pinagtatrabahuhan na natukoy ng pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunang kalagayan sa ilalim ng batas ng CNMI kung saan ang pagbigay ng E-2 CNMI na kalagayan sa Namumuhunan ay nakabatay.

Ang asawa ng isang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhun ay maaaring humiling ng pahintulot magtatrabaho matapos siya ay ayon sa batas na nakakuha ng E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan at nasasabatas na pumasok sa CNMI. Ang mga asawa ng E-2 CNMI na mga Namumuhunan na inisyal na nagkaroon ng Mga Sertipiko ng Retiradong Namumuhunan sa CNMI ay hindi awtorisadong kumuha ng pahintulot sa trabaho.

Ang pahintulot sa trabaho ay hindi pinapayagan para sa mga anak ng mga E-2 CNMI na mga namumuhunan.

Ang mga E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan na may kalagayan sa ilalim ng pahintulot ng retiradong namumuhunan o ang mga asawa nila ay hindi pinahihintulutang magtatrabaho. Ang pagpasok sa CNMI bilang “retirado” ay hindi alinsunod sa pagkuha ng trabaho.

Ang E-2 CNMI na Namumu-

hunang prinsipal na pahintulot sa trabaho ay partikular-sa-pagtatrabahan insidente sa E-2 CNMI na kalagayan sa Namumuhunan, kaya ang prinsipal ay hindi kailangang mag-apply para sa Dokumento ng Pahintulot Magtatrabaho (Employment Authorization Document) (EAD). Ang pasaporte ng namumuhunan at ang Form I-94 na nagpapakita ng kalagayan ng E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan ay tanggap na mga uri ng dokumentasyon upang makumpleto ang Pagpapatotoo ng Pagiging-Karapat-dapat sa Pagtatrabaho, Form I-9, kapag magsisimula sa anumang trabaho na pinahintulutan sa ilalim ng kalagayang iyon. Ang asawa ay dapat magpatala para sa isang EAD, gamit ang Form I-765, upang mabigyan ng pahintulot magtatrabaho. Kung nabigyan ng EAD, ang asawa ay maaaring gumamit nito bilang patunay ng pagkakakilanlan at pahintulot sa trabaho para sa layunin ng Form I-9 sa alinmang pagtatrabahuhan sa CNMI.

Q38. Ano ang mangyayari kung ang indibiduwal ay nagpalit ng pinagtatrabahuhan nang hindi nagsusumite sa USCIS?

A38. Ang hindi pinahintulutang pagbabago ng pinagtatrabahuhan sa bagong pinagtatrabahuhan ay maaring magdudulot na mawala ng indibiduwal ang naaayon sa batas na kalagayan.

Q39. Maaari ba ang mga E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan ay mag-apply para sa pagpapalawig?

A39. Oo. Ang indibiduwal ay maaaring magpatala para sa pagpapalawig bago mapaso ang kalagayan. Ang indibiduwal na may E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan ay maaaring magpatala para sa pagpapalawig hanggang sa pagtatapos ng panahon ng transisyon.

Q40. Ano ang kakailanganin para sa pagpapalawig ng pananatili?

A40. Upang magpatala para sa pagpapalawig ng pananatili, ang E-2 CNMI na namumuhunan ay kailangang magsumite ng bagong Form I-129 at Suplemento E kasama ang kailangang ebidensiya at bayad.

Q41. Ang visa bang ito ay nagpapahintulot ng isang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan na magbiyahe sa Estados Unidos?

A41. Hindi. Ang E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan para sa pangmatagalang-panahong CNMI na namumuhunan ay isang “CNMI-lang na hindi migranteng” kalagayan at hindi umiirals sa kabuuan ng Estados Unidos. Hindi ito nagpapahintulot ng pagpasok sa Guam o saanmang ibang bahagi ng Estados Unidos. Subalit, hindi nito hahadlangan ang pagbiyahe kung ang namumuhunan ay sa halip awtorisado at makapasok sa Estados Unidos nang may ibang kalagayan.

Q42. Ano ang mangyayari kung ang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan ay bumiyaha sa ibang bahagi ng Estados Unidos tanging base sa CNMI-lang na E-2 visa?

A42. Ang pagbiyahe o pagtangkang pagbiyahe mula sa CNMI papunta sa ibang bahagi

ng Estados Unidos nang walang angkop na visa o ibang awtorisasyon ay paglabag sa E-2 CNMI na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan. Kung ang indibiduwal ay hindi nakatupad sa mga kondisyon ng E-2 CNMI kalagayan ng Namumuhunan, siya ay maaaring mapatalsik mula sa CNMI o saanmang ibang lokasyon sa U.S..

Q43. Ang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan ba ay makakabiyahe sa labas ng Estados Unidos at bumalik sa CNMI?

A43. Oo, ang pinal na patakaran ay nagpapahintulot sa pagbiyahe sa labas ng U.S. Subalit, ang mga indibiduwal na nasa CNMI sa ilalim ng CNMI-lang na hindi migranteng kalagayan na aalis at nais bumalik sa parehong kalagayan ay kailangang kumuha ng visa mula sa U.S. Department of State upang muling makapasok sa CNMI. Samakatuwid, kung ang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan ay kumuha ng kanyang kalagayan mula sa USCIS sa CNMI, kailangan niyang kumuha ng E-2 CNMI na visa ng Namumuhunan mula sa Embahada o Konsulado ng U.S. upang muling makapasok sa CNMI, anuman ang pagkamamamayan. Ang pag-apruba ng USCIS ng E-2 CNMI kalagayan ng Namumuhunan ay naglalaan ng kalagayan habang nasa CNMI, ngunit hindi inaalis ang pangangailangan para sa visa para makapasok sa CNMI.

Q44. Ano ang proseso sa pagkuha ng visa sa ibayong dagat?

A44. Kapag inaprubahan ng USCIS ang petisyon para sa E-2 CNMI Namumuhunang klasipikasyon, ang namumuhunan ay dapat mag-apply para sa isang E-2 CNMI visa ng Namumuhunan sa Embahada ng U.S. o Konsulado na may hurisdiksiyon sa kanilang lugar ng permanenteng pinaninirahan.

Q45. Ilang mga publikong komento ang natanggap sa paggawa ng patakaran ang ito at isinaalangalang ba sila?

A45. Ang USCIS ay nangangailangan ng 13 komento. Ang DHS at USCIS ay nagrebaso at itinuring sa bawat komento na isinumite. Ang isa sa pinakakabuluhang pagbabago na nagmula sa mga pampublikong komento, ang pinal na patakaran na nagbawas sa pinakamaliit na puhunang sa CNMI Pangmatagalang-Panahong may hawak sa Pahintulot sa Pagpasok ng Negosyo na may CNMI Sertipiko sa Pangmatagalang-Panahong Negosyo sa \$50,000 mula sa \$150,000 na pasimula sa panukalang batas. Lininaw din ng USCIS ang paraan kung paano ng E-2 CNMI na kalagayan sa Namumuhunan ay direktang ibibigay sa CNMI gamit ang angkop na pagpaubayang awtoridad sa ilalim ng INA, nang hindi kinakailangan na ang mga namumuhunan ay bumiyaha sa ibayong dagat upang makakuha ng visa para muling makapasok sa E-2 na kalagayan ng Namumuhunan. Lahat ng mga komentong natanggap ay ipinaskil nang walang pagbabago sa <http://www.regulations.gov>, bilang bahagi ng pinal na patakaran.

Source: USCIS

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Katrina Halili: Fight ain't over

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The fight ain't over yet, as far as Katrina Halili's lawsuit against Hayden Kho is concerned.

The 25-year-old actress recently filed a notice for appeal before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court, to have her case against Kho restudied.

In May 2009, Halili sued the cosmetic surgeon for allegedly violating Republic Act No. 9262 or the Anti-Violence Act Against Women and Children of 2004—at the height of the public scandal over a series of videos that showed Kho engaging in sexual acts with her and other women.

Last month, Judge Rodolfo Bonifa-

cio of Branch 159 of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court dismissed the case for “insufficiency of evidence.”

Halili admitted she felt hurt when people said she was only exploiting the issue for personal gain. “Is admitting that you have a sex video something to be proud of? I'm not doing this to promote myself. This is about seeking justice from the person who has wronged me,” she told Inquirer Entertainment. “Before I decided to file this case, I had no work and contract with GMA 7, and only recently put my house on sale. I was only lucky that, shortly after this, I got a call from my GMA 7 bosses, who told me to get back to work...”

Her most recent acting stint was in the romantic drama “Beauty Queen”



Katrina Halili

Carmina: My twins need guidance now

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Actress-TV host Carmina Villaroel is convinced that her 10-year-old twins Cassandra and Maverick “need guidance now more than ever.”

“As infants, they only had to be fed and put to sleep. Now, they already have minds of their own,” Carmina tells Inquirer Entertainment. “They are influenced not just by us but also by the people they meet in school. They need to be taught how to be God-fearing and respectful of others.”

Carmina, who joined show business when she was 13, says it is also important that the twins live normal

lives. “They see their parents on television all the time,” says the actress, now 35. “When they started doing commercials, their faces were on TV, too—that's normal to them but not to most kids. Zoren (Legazpi, her long-time partner) and I encourage them to do ‘normal stuff’ like going to malls or spending the weekends on the beach.”

In spite of being twins, Carmina swears Cassy and Mavy are very different.

“Cassy's favorite color changes all the time, depending on what her cousins or classmates like,” Carmina says. “She's very easy to please, just give her a pink stationery set and she'll be thrilled. Mavy is more sure of what he

wants. When he asks for a Lego set, he'll even give you the serial number.”

‘Perfect couple’

Carmina says working with Zoren in the GMA 7 magazine show “Love ni Mister, Love ni Misis” has taught her so much about her partner. “He takes his work very seriously. Since he's new in hosting, he really tries to learn about it as much as he can.”

She is thrilled to hear people say they are the perfect couple. “We don't have pretensions. Off cam, we're really very funny and spontaneous. On the show, we don't always follow the script. We don't mind making fun of ourselves.”

Will romance bloom between Azkal and Imortal?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Azkals heartthrobs Phil and James Younghusband were spotted partying at Republiq last Friday. They were both dateless, but all the girls swarmed around them for non-stop picture-taking.

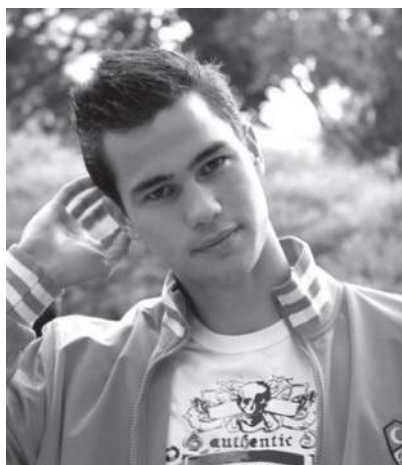
Phil caused quite a commotion in Twitterlandia when he tweeted Angel Locsin, asking her out on V-Day. Angel replied that she can't make it because she has work. Phil says that he is willing to wait and he is not closing the doors to a guest appearance in Angel's show “Imortal.”

Their budding romance sparked a lot of amusing and cute reactions such as my son IC's tweet: Sa love team na Philgel at sa buhay na mortal, manaig kaya ang ibigang Lobo at Azkal?” Another tweet went: “Phil MYhusband aagawin kita kay Angel.”

Tweeps have even created an account where they share updates and comments about the newest love team. May their hearts tumble together just as Phil did when Azkals won vs. the Mongolians. As Jim Paredes puts it: “We let the dogs out and they had Mongolian barbecue for dinner.”

New love

I heard that Angel Aquino has split up with Lui Villaruz. Is it final? Could it be true that Angel's new love is many years her senior? Angel is one of the sweetest persons I've ever met in the biz, so my only wish is that all her sweetness comes



Phil Younghusband

back to her a hundredfold, whether it's from a younger or older guy.

Payback time?

Ogie Alcasid remains unperturbed by people questioning his appointment by P-Noy as a member of the Edsa People Power Commission. Some quarters insist that it's payback time since Ogie campaigned for P-Noy in the elections.

In defense of Ogie, he is not one who asks for anything in return. He is one of the few genuinely selfless celebrities I know. I can vouch for that because Ogie has always been a friend over and beyond the call of duty.

“Everyone is entitled to criticize. It is well within their right to do so because we serve,” he explains. “I believe our advocacies have to be pursued knowing that there will be very few who will

give you a pat on the back.”

What's the first thing on their agenda? “We are commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Edsa revolt from February 22-25 with numerous events capped by a concert of OPM artists on the 25th at the People Power monument. Then we will promote programs that instill nationalism most especially in the hearts and minds of the youth. As a commissioner, my thrust is in music and entertainment.”

Lovers-turned-friends

Aiko Melendez and Martin Jickain are finally on speaking terms after their annulment has been granted.

“Mart and I saw each other at our daughter Marthena's school program last January 31,” Aiko says. “Dati civil lang kami. Now we're relaxed na. No more awkwardness. It's better not to burn bridges for the sake of our kid. Patrick was with me during the school event so it's cool. I was even the one who took the pic of Mart and Marthena.”

Sharon: God is my witness; pictures not altered

In an interview with the “The Buzz,” an exasperated Sharon Cuneta said she was not in the business of deceiving people—referring to critics' claims that the photos used for her Marie France billboards had been retouched to make her look slimmer.

“As God is my witness,” she said, “those pictures were not altered...”

Asked who she thought could be

on the Kapuso network.

Grateful

She said she is grateful to the members of the human rights group Gabriela who showed their support by showing up at her court hearings.

“I met victims with similar cases in some of the sessions I've attended with Gabriela. One girl didn't know that her boyfriend had videotaped her. When they broke up a year later, his new girlfriend decided to upload the sex video on the Net for everyone to see,” Halili recalled.

She wanted to make a stand, she said. Otherwise, “these horrible men will continue doing what they do.”

Well aware that her fight could go on

for years, Halili declared, “I'm ready for anything ... 'di na ako aatras. I'm prepared for the emotional stress ... If I don't do this, lalakas lang lalo ang loob niya (Kho).”

In November 2009, the Professional Regulation Commission revoked Kho's medical license due to the sex video scandal. In a resolution, the PRC's Board of Medicine found the cosmetic surgeon guilty of committing “immorality, dishonorable and unethical conduct” after he recorded his most private moments with various women without their consent.”

Halili expressed one wish: “Sana maraming babaeng maging kasing kulit ko ... We need to fight. I don't want this to happen to anyone again.”

RUSHES

Mogul's son eyes Pretty Starlet

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Whispers are getting louder by the minute: Pretty Starlet is the new lady love of Rich Mogul's son. No wonder PS landed a plum project recently!

Championing PS' career, RM's son also bankrolled another project, a promising dud.

The big question: Will PS' Entertaining Handler get a commission for these lucrative deals? Deal or no deal?

Cute Idol's new look

There is something new on the face of Cute Idol. Seems CI followed Hunky Friend's example and got a nose job, too.

Now, CI and HF can very well pass for twins—not! Actually, CI didn't need the nose lift. Maybe HF convinced CI to just do it?

Three's company

Years ago, Stunned Mole witnessed a strange ménage à trois in a hotel room. SM stumbled upon Hunky Actor in bed with Matinee Idol.

No, not in flagrante delicto. HA was sound asleep, while MI was innocently whispering sweet-nothings on the phone.

SM recalls that MI was talking to his Future Wife! Unknown to FW, MI was in the same room as HA. Nakup.

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV gabfests (And why we are moved, if we are moved):

Phil Younghusband, asked about what he would give Angel Locsin: “Whatever she wants. I promised to take the love of my life to Paris, but we'll see.” (Sosi!)

Jake Cuenca, asked if he ever felt jealous of Jolo Revilla, who once courted his current girlfriend, Melissa Ricks: “Siyempre may kurot!”

(He said that?)

Jake Cuenca on his relationship with Melissa Ricks: “This is the happiest I've ever been, and I hope I'm making her just as happy. Kung ano man ang ginagawa namin, I wanna keep it like that 'cause it's working.” (Hmm, what could that be?)

John Estrada on accepting ABS-CBN's offer to host “Happy, Yipee, Yehey!” with Randy Santiago: “Basta kaming dalawa ni Randy, ang alam namin, hindi krimen 'tong ginawa namin—ang pagtanggap ng legal at disentang trabaho.” (Kaninong trabaho kaya ang illegal at 'di disente?)

John Estrada on the possibility of Willie Revillame refusing to be his best man, and not attending his wedding: “‘Di madaling tanggapin. Pero siyempre kailangan mong i-embrace para 'di ka masyadong [masaktan].” (Unfriend sa Facebook!)

Randy Santiago on his rift with Willie Revillame: “‘Ito'y isang pagsubok lamang.” (At magandang promo para sa bagong program. At kay Willie rin!)

Melai Cantiveros, asked whether she feels that Jason Francisco is “the one”: “Siyempre gusto ko naman talaga 'yun, pero 'di mo masasabi paglipas ng panahon. Baka madapa ako tapos iba makita ko. As long as masaya kami sa isa't isa, go. Kapag hindi na, bye!” (Atta girl.)

Kyla on her recent engagement with cager Rich Alvarez: “Para akong lumulutang. And up until now, it still feels too good to be true. Hindi pa masyadong nagsi-sink in sa 'kin ... So-brang saya.” (Pipe down, girl.)

Eugene Domingo on receiving flowers every Valentine's Day: “May mga nagbibigay talaga ... kapag Valentine's Day—binibigyan ko ang sarili ko!” (Bongga!)

The spunky Jillian Ward, excited about her newly born sister: “Ang cute-cute niya, kamukha ko po siya!” (If she may say so herself.)

“There's a billboard ad [on] Edsa developed by advertisers who think consumers are stupid.”

The same day Sharon was on “The Buzz,” Hayden was on “Paparazzi,” adamant and unapologetic: “I don't feel that I have to say sorry to you (Sharon). But if you feel that way, I can't do anything about it,” he said. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

Maharlika – Opinyon

Taiwan imbroglio: extradition or deportation?

The diplomatic impasse with Taiwan is an intensely political issue for which the law offers scarcely a fig leaf of legitimacy. It now falls on the lawyers to bear the brunt of the debate, and the arguments they have made so far can pass muster.

Taiwan legitimately fears for its own nationals who have scammed some \$20 million from victims in the mainland. Beijing is legitimately aggrieved since those victims are its nationals. It has brought pressure to bear upon us, and we have obliged, if rather hastily. But Beijing should have been appeased by our cooperation and held its fury in check. The front-page photograph showing Beijing's harsh welcome—the fugitives' heads were covered in black sacks upon their arrival at the airport—certainly does not inspire confidence in the quality of Beijing's justice.

The newspaper accounts do not give us too clear a picture. On Dec. 27 last year, the Philippine government arrested 24 suspected swindlers during raids in Makati, Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Quezon City for Internet fraud. Fourteen of them were Taiwan nationals, the other 10 from the mainland. They couldn't show their travel papers to prove their nationalities. No case was filed against them until Jan. 4 and 5, 2011—apparently only after Taiwan's de facto embassy in Manila, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO), had complained about their nationals' detention.

Soon thereafter, TECO representatives secured a writ of habeas

corpus from the Court of Appeals. On Jan. 31, the CA ordered immigration officials to produce the suspects before the court and explain why they were being held in custody. The CA set the case for hearing on Feb. 2. However, on that day, the suspects were boarded on a chartered flight to Beijing. Apparently, TECO officials rushed to the airport with a copy of the CA order but were barred by airport police.

From a legal standpoint, Taiwan would not have been in a position to complain had we resorted to a straightforward extradition rather than a mere deportation proceeding. Extradition would have bound us to send the fugitives to China whatever their nationality, while deportation theoretically empowers us merely to exclude them from our borders to wherever in the world they can be kept from causing us harm.

If it were an extradition, the One-China policy would be superfluous. Under the Joint Communiqué signed by Ferdinand Marcos and Chou En Lai in 1975, we affirmed that "there is but one China and that Taiwan is an integral part of Chinese territory" and that Beijing is the "sole legal government of China." There is no need for that here because we have signed an extradition treaty with Beijing. We have bound ourselves to send to them fugitives from Chinese justice found hiding on Philippine soil. The nationality of the extraditee is irrelevant. It cannot immunize him from being sent to the requesting state. All that matters is that he be charged criminally with an extraditable offense by the requesting state before its own courts.

Indeed, under recent Supreme Court rulings, extraditees are entitled to minimum due process protection since extradition proceedings are *sui generis*. They are unlike the accused in criminal proceedings, whose innocence or guilt lies in the hands of Philippine courts.

Yet apparently it wasn't an extradition at all. It was merely the deportation of undesirable aliens, which gives rise to certain questions. For sure we have that power. We hold the sovereign power to exclude or deport aliens whose presence in our territory is inimical to the national interest. And in terms of due process protection, they

are in no better position than extraditees. If extraditees are in legal limbo, deportees are in procedural purgatory. They are technically not under arrest but merely "detained pending deportation." They are even worse off if they cannot show valid travel papers, since they can be summarily removed.

But the real issue here is not whether we can deport, but deport to where? Why deport them to Beijing? Unlike extradition, deportation theoretically leaves the alien free to go anywhere outside our shores. It doesn't lock us into sending them to Beijing. If the rationale is to rid us of undesirable aliens, then it shouldn't really matter where we dispatch them. We can send them to the state of nationality, or the state of habitual residence, or the point of origin. (In this case, both Beijing and Taiwan have actually claimed to be the fugitives' state of nationality.)

The best argument thus far presented by the Philippine government is that it looked like Taiwan was going to treat their native sons with kid gloves, based on actual recent experience of criminals deported by Manila only for Taipei to set them free. In other words, if the goal is to ensure that the Internet scammers faced justice, we were

better off sending them to Beijing, the jurisdiction with a greater stake in the case. But that is precisely why we should have resorted to extradition, whose purpose is to punish, rather than deportation, which aims merely to protect the native.

Unless Beijing sees itself as merely calling in old debts or brazenly calling the shots, or conversely, if Beijing is truly friend, ally and sovereign peer to our Republic, it ought to have spared us the completely unnecessary spectacle of the hooded captives and assured us the fairness and justice that would have been our end-goal had we conducted a bona fide extradition. We sent the fugitives to Beijing to face the music. Let Beijing assure us—and Taipei—that the music they will play is not a funeral dirge.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com.



Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EDITORIAL

A P179-B slush fund?

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Carlos F. Garcia stands accused of amassing P303 million in ill-gotten wealth when he was the comptroller of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. His budget officer, retired Lt. Col. George Rabusa, is also facing charges of siphoning off P50 million from the military budget. Rabusa, in turn, has told lawmakers that he had prepared going-away presents (pabaon) for three former AFP chiefs of staff—Generals Angelo Reyes, Diomedio Villanueva, and Roy Cima—tut—in amounts ranging from P50 million to P80 million, aside from providing a monthly "allowance" of P5 million to Reyes.

So where did all that money come from? The Office of the Ombudsman, which has given up trying to pin down Garcia for plunder, says it has no idea. Anti-graft prosecutors claimed their investigators searched for suppliers that might have paid him off, but could not find a single one who was willing to cooperate.

It seems now that they were looking for evidence to support the plunder charge in the wrong places. Former state auditor Heidi Mendoza pointed at several possible sources of military officials' ill-gotten wealth. To mention just two, there was the double charging of expenses, like the P120-million repair of a C-130 aircraft, to the United Nations funds intended for the upkeep of Filipino troops taking part in UN peacekeeping missions, and then there was the purchase of P1.6 billion worth of office supplies using funds from the AFP Modernization Program.

Rabusa identified another source: the "conversion" of various allocations in the AFP budget, especially those intended for payment of salaries of soldiers, to other purposes. But how can huge sums be diverted from this fund without inciting a mutiny? Easy: just bloat the budget for personnel services.

To be fair, this has been a long-time practice intended to give the military some flexibility in meeting contingencies. The problem is that the ceiling is much too high, usually 20 percent higher than the actual troop strength. And Congress has been making the situation even worse by approving increases in the allocations for personnel services purportedly to cover adjustments in pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits for military personnel. Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares calculated a "discrepancy" of P179.4 billion between the allocations requested by the AFP and the amounts approved by Congress.

That was P179.4 billion—possibly more—that the leadership of the poorly equipped and badly provisioned Armed Forces could spend at their discretion. How it was actually spent should be the subject of another congressional investigation. If this is the source of the slush fund for the military top brass, as Rabusa said, then the ongoing congressional investigation may have barely scratched the surface in terms of the personalities involved and the amounts they have squirreled away.

But more than conducting investigations, Congress should stop financing corruption in government, by closely scrutinizing the budgets of government agencies, especially the military and the police. Another thing lawmakers can do is set reasonable limits for staff augmentation in those agencies. Then they should also limit the authority of government agencies to utilize savings. Too much discretion in the use of funds offers too many opportunities for corruption.

Mapping the nation

Maps were part of early education in the last century. In those days we were taught to identify the shapes of various countries or towns or bodies of water. For example, Italy is shaped like a boot and the contours of Lake Titicaca, between Bolivia and Peru, resemble a Puma chasing a rabbit, a form pre-dating the more recognizable logo of Puma sports shoes.

Teachers and students today can download maps from the Internet—everything, from traditional charts of land in bodies of water to focused zones and streets. Google Earth can even display the place where you live and your neighbor's rusty roof as seen from a satellite. Maps are so accessible that many people do not see any reason to know them well.

I was in grade school when calculators first came out, and I remember that there was a debate on whether to allow their use in math class or not. Old-fashioned teachers naturally felt threatened and argued that calculators would dull our math skills, while progressive ones responded by predicting that calculators would enable students to cope with integral calculus by Grade 6.

My father and his sisters prefer to do simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in their heads or with paper and pen. They are scandalized when they go to department stores and salesgirls use a calculator to find the sum of 5 plus 5.

It is unfortunate that my grade school map reading skills were limited to identifying countries and finding their capital cities. It was only much later that I gave maps a second look, after I was shown a European map of the Philippines printed in 1760. It was a large format map showing the entire archipelago and was based on an earlier map by the Jesuit Pedro Murillo y Velarde, originally drawn and printed by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay (1701-1771) in Manila in 1734. What made my mind spin was the fact that they did not have Google Earth, Global Positioning Systems, or satellites at the time yet they were able to make the first complete map of the Philippines that included rivers and waterways, mountains, hills and other topographical information. How Murillo Velarde made his map at the time is both a question and an inspiration.

The Murillo Velarde map taught me to appreciate the importance of water and waterways in the historical development of our present towns, cities and provinces. All early settlements were along rivers and coasts, the routes of transport, travel, trade and migration. When the Spaniards introduced the wheel in the Philippines in the 16th century and later built roads and bridges, they would describe Filipinas as an archipelago of many islands separated by water.

This was one of the great paradigm shifts brought by the Spanish colonial period, because our ancestors saw water as a source of life

and movement, and for them water connected rather than separated islands and peoples. They had no need for the wheel because they were seafarers and almost everyone knew how to swim. Pre-Spanish Filipinos didn't see the need for bridges because their watercraft brought them from one riverbank to another, from one island to another. The balanghai traveled from Sulu carrying gifts to China and the emperor centuries before Magellan was born. Many place names in the Philippines resulted from the names of bodies of water or are related to water: Agusan, Aklan, Albay, Apayao, Cagayan, Mandaluyong, Pagsanjan, Pampanga, Siquijor, Sulu, etc.

The large format Murillo Velarde map of 1734 is the most coveted among Filipino collectors because it is quite rare, with less than 50 known copies in the entire universe. The map is adorned on the sides with vignettes or small scenes of people and places in the archipelago. I drooled over a Murillo Velarde map in the enviable collection of Geronimo de los Reyes long ago and, seeing the lust in my eyes, he was kind enough to send me good photographs.

In the 1990s I was told that a Murillo Velarde map was available in Italy for P1 million. I asked my father if he could advance my inheritance. He curbed his impulsive son since it was an atrocious amount for an old piece of paper. That map eluded me and

will not surface again in my lifetime.

If it does, I probably cannot afford it, so I wish our National Library or National Museum, or perhaps the private Lopez Memorial Museum or the Filipinas Heritage Library will acquire a 1734 Murillo Velarde map when one comes along next.

The next best thing is the reduced version of the Murillo Velarde map engraved and signed by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay in 1744. Five years ago such a map in mint condition turned up in Bangkok, but alas this poor academic could not afford the astronomical price quoted in euros.

What makes this map special is the cartouche, the title and description of the map, embellished with a charming depiction of people in Filipino attire of the period, further decorated with local fruits and flowers that form the shape of the principal beast of burden in the islands: a smiling carabao.

A good map of the Philippines should be part of every elementary textbook, but it is not. Filipinos should know the complete territory of their country but Sabah and the Spratlys are not on our maps. Maps don't just teach geography; as a depiction of our country these maps should also teach history and nationhood.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



▲ CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Participants of the Sanpo-en Cultural Exchange Program from Saipan pose for a group photo at the Office of the Governor of Kyoto City in Japan. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, Mayor's Office staff Martha Sablan, and Sen. Ralph Torres. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy second birthday to our princess Alexis Jade DLC Taitingfong! May you have a wonderful and blessed day filled with fun and laughter. We love you very much. Greetings come from Nina, Nino, and the whole family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 50th birthday to a wonderful daughter, sister, wife, and mother, Celina Mafnas Muna, who celebrates her birthday today, Feb. 19, 2011! May your day be blessed with all the love, joy, and happiness you've given us! We love you and hope you have a spectacular day! Love, your family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



28TH ANNIVERSARY

Happy anniversary to our parents, Ramon and Celina Muna, who 28 years ago on Feb. 19, 1983, vowed to love each other forever. Here's to many, many, many more years of that love. We love you both! Greetings come from Bo, Alaysha, and Jess. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



▲ Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores and 2010 Liberation Queen Josi-fynn Vivian "Peachy" Quitugua have their photo taken with students from Nagano Jyoyama Elementary School in Japan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



LIFE SKILLS

Boy scouts and cub scouts learn about the importance of conserving and preserving green sea turtles during the Boy Scouts Picnic on Feb. 12 at the American Memorial Park. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, standing fourth from right, joins Seisa students, alumni, teachers and school officials during the welcoming ceremony for the visiting Japanese delegation at the Marianas High School gymnasium Thursday morning. CLARISSA V. DAVID



Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, fourth from left, and Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison, leftmost, are joined on stage by Seisa schoolteachers and officials at the Marianas High School gymnasium Thursday morning. The Japanese visitors are here for the annual cultural exchange program between MHS and Seisa schools. The Seisa delegation is scheduled to depart Saipan on Sunday. CLARISSA V. DAVID

YoungStyle

Hasbro pushes into Lego's land with new blocks

By MAE ANDERSON
AP RETAIL WRITER

NEWYORK (AP)—Transformers fought for world domination in "Revenge of the Fallen." Now they're taking aim at Lego.

Hasbro Inc., the No. 2 U.S. toy maker, is joining the building-block fray with a new line called Kre-O that's compatible with Lego and the similar Mega Blocks. The first products feature popular Transformers characters like Optimus Prime and Bumblebee.

Kre-O, launching in the fall, is intended to grab part of the booming construction set business that Lego dominates. While total U.S. toy revenue rose 2 percent to \$21.87 billion in 2010, according to the NPD Group, building set sales jumped 13 percent.

The line will launch with 12 Transformers sets. Hasbro plans to expand Kre-Os to its other brands eventually.

Each Transformer set comes with two sets of instructions so the same bricks build the vehicle version of the Transformer as well as the robot version. Prices range from \$6.99 to \$59.99.

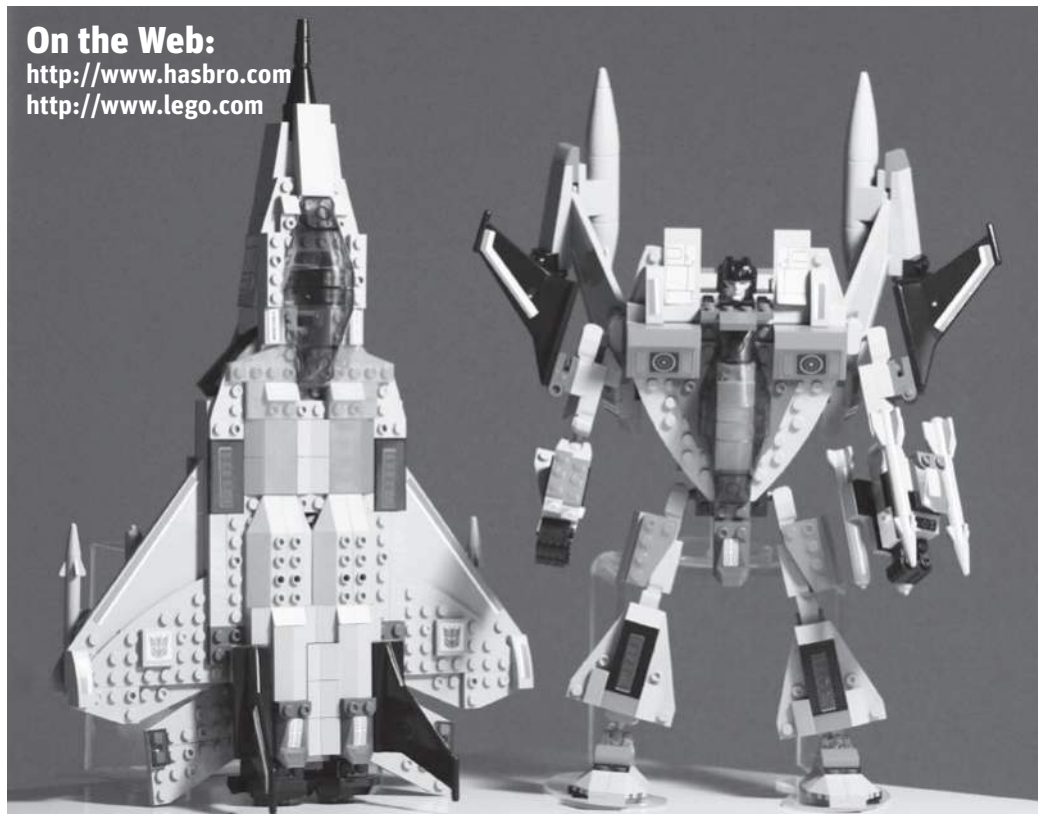
Kre-Os are one of thousands of new toys that will compete for the attention of kids, and parents, on display at the American International Toy Fair trade show in New York, beginning Sunday.

Hasbro could use a hit. The company said earlier this month its net income slipped 16 percent in the fourth quarter as U.S. demand for toys dropped off late in the year.

"Toy makers had a good year, but it wasn't the great year we expected," said BMO Capital Markets analyst Gerrick Johnson.

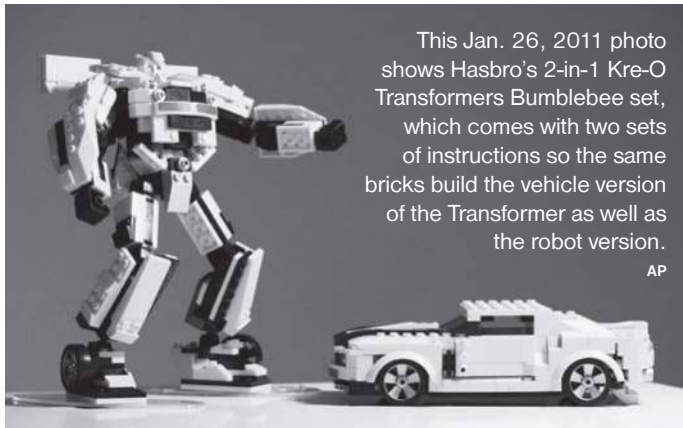
That could make retailers more cautious about ordering this year, which makes getting early buzz as a potential hot holiday toy important.

Hasbro previously introduced a construction set line in 2003 called Built to Rule, but it fizzled and was discontinued by



On the Web:
<http://www.hasbro.com>
<http://www.lego.com>

This Jan. 26, 2011 photo shows Hasbro's 2-in-1 Kre-O Transformers StarScream set, which also includes two Kreon mini figures and comes with two sets of instructions so the same bricks build the Decepticon jet or robot version of the Transformer.



This Jan. 26, 2011 photo shows Hasbro's 2-in-1 Kre-O Transformers Bumblebee set, which comes with two sets of instructions so the same bricks build the vehicle version of the Transformer as well as the robot version.

2005. The Built to Rule blocks didn't hold together well and some of the sets were too difficult for their age range, Hasbro Chief Marketing Officer John Frascotti said.

The Kre-O line, on the other hand, has better-quality bricks, Frascotti said.

The new line makes sense Hasbro, said Jim Silver, toy analyst at Timetoplaymag.com,

particularly since a new blockbuster Transformers movie, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," is set for this summer.

"Transformers is a hot boys license that hasn't entered the construction category," he said. "They've been wanting to enter the category for years," he said.

Silver said the line could make a dent in the construction play set market—although with

only 12 sets to start with, it will be tiny compared with Lego's hundreds of items.

"It's the small players in the category that have to be concerned," Silver said.

Meanwhile, Lego is expanding into new categories itself. The Danish toymaker has been one of the toy world's biggest success stories, with double digit net income growth even during the recession. Last year it introduced board games, and this year it is venturing into other gaming areas with a new line called Ninjago, featuring ninjas that are training in an ancient martial art to fight an evil lord.

The line combines block sets with online and trading card games. A Cartoon Network tie-in TV special, "Ninjago: Masters of Spinjitzu," will introduce the line on Monday. Some items in the line, priced from \$4.99 to \$119.99, are available now and others will launch in April and August.

How to make some funny bugs

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

I heard there is a new strain of really big, mega-size bugs in the area and if you get bitten by one, you'll end up in a craft store.

But if that prospect doesn't scare you, go to your nearest Michaels Arts and Crafts Store March 23, when kids from all over the country will be learning how to make them during a free, family event to celebrate Kids Craft Day.

Actually, every Saturday is kids' day at Michaels, said Holly Baldwin, event coordinator for Michaels new store in Fairlawn, Ohio. Children ages 4 to 12 learn how to make new

things each week from 10 a.m. to noon during their Kids Club meetings. This week will be especially exciting because Michaels also will hold club meetings most evenings.

Among the activities will be lessons for tie-dye T-shirts like this one, which I made using Michaels Arts and Crafts Store March 23, when kids from all over the country will be learning how to make them during a free, family event to celebrate Kids Craft Day.

Although kids love the bright tie-dyed look, it isn't a practical process for children to use. Permanent dyes and kids don't mix, unless you like fluorescent-bright skin tones.

But this T-shirt, decorated with Tulip brand Cool Color Spray by Duncan Enterprises, is tailor-made for children. The fabric paint is permanent, but

easily cleaned with soap and water. You can vary the intensity of the color by spraying lightly for pastel shades and using a heavier spray to get a more vibrant color.

Supplies you will need:

- White T-shirt
- Tulip brand Cool Color Spray in Caribbean blue and hot pink
- Dragonfly stencil
- Purple fabric pen
- Cardboard
- Large trash bag
- Paper towels
- Prewash the T-shirt. Do not use fabric softener
- Cover the work area with a large trash bag and paper towels.

Lay shirt flat on the work surface and insert a piece of cardboard between the layers of fabric. Hold the bottle 8 to 10 inches from the fabric and spray in a sweeping motion for pastel colors. Spray closer for more vibrant color in some areas. Repeat the same process for each additional color, leaving some areas white. Let dry for 24 hours.

Replace cardboard and randomly stencil dragonflies with purple fabric pen and let dry.

Wash the shirt after 72 hours with a mild detergent.

Classes and times for Michaels Kids Club may vary by store. There is a nominal, materials fee for each session. Call the nearest store for details.

Glance: 5 toys to watch in 2011

By MAE ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The American International Toy Fair trade show kicks off in New York on Sunday, with more than 1,000 toy manufacturers showing toys they hope will be big sellers in 2011. Here are 5 standouts at the event for industry insiders:

➤ **Redakai:** Launching in fall 2011, this trading card game by Spinmaster, the maker of Bakugan, features 3-D graphics and animation effects on the cards.

The first series will have more than 100 cards and range in price from \$5.99 to \$29.99 for cards, action figures and accessories.



➤ **Ji Ga Zo:** A mind-boggling puzzle game imported from Japan by Hasbro Inc. It is made up of 300 puzzle pieces in shades of black, white and gray with symbols on the back. Users upload any photo through the Internet and print out a map. They then match the symbols on the puzzle pieces to the map and slowly assemble a puzzle version of the photo. Available now, \$24.99.



➤ **Sweet Talkin' Ken:** Tied to Ken's 50th anniversary, Mattel's Sweet Talkin' Ken. A built-in microphone lets kids record anything they want Ken to say. He'll repeat it in his own voice, the child's voice or a high-pitched voice. Available now, \$19.99.



➤ **Skylanders Spyro's Adventure:** A hybrid videogame/collectible toy line by Activision. The characters in the videogame will be available as action figures with a chip in them. Place the figure on a "power portal" to play the character in the game. Debuting in the fall. Prices aren't set. Figures are expected to be under \$10 and the game, which comes with three figures and other accessories, about \$69.



➤ **Angry Birds Knock On Wood Game.** The popular iPhone game Angry Birds becomes a physical game from Mattel Inc. in which players try to knock down structures and pigs. Available in May for \$14.99.



Life & Style

Father of music group members pleads guilty

PROVO, Utah (AP)—The distraught father of The 5 Browns musical group pleaded guilty Thursday to sexually abusing his daughters when they were children in a deal that will send him to prison for at least 10 years.

With scratches and bruises on his face from a crash in which his Porsche plunged 300 feet into a canyon, Keith Brown, 55, entered his plea to three felony counts in Fourth District Court.

"He is terribly remorseful for what has happened and for what he has put his family through," defense attorney Steven Shapiro said after the hearing. "He recognizes that this is the next step in the long road to trying to accept responsibility for something terrible that he did a long time ago."

Dressed in dark slacks and a grey overcoat, Brown appeared in court with his sister-in-law by his side. He showed few signs of the horrific crash just three days earlier that police called an accident.

His response to the judge when asked for his plea on each charge was a barely audible, "guilty."

Brown's three daughters and two sons are part of the classi-



AP
Keith Brown looks on after pleading guilty at his hearing in Provo 4th District Court in Provo, Utah, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011.

cal piano group The 5 Browns, whose albums have topped the classical music charts and who have appeared on "Oprah" and other shows. The group also has been profiled by "60 Minutes."

Brown did not speak further during the hearing and declined to answer questions from reporters afterward. He remained free until his sentencing on March 31, after prosecutors said they do not consider him a threat.

Brown chose to enter the plea to bring a quick resolution to the case and did not want to "exacerbate the harm" by dragging out

the proceedings, Shapiro said.

Utah County prosecutors charged Brown with one first-degree felony count of sodomy on a child and two second-degree felony counts of sexual abuse of a child.

He could face a sentence of up to life in prison on the first-degree felony and up to 15 years each on the second-degree felonies. Under the plea deal with prosecutors, he will serve at least a decade in prison.

The records filed Feb. 10 in the abuse case don't identify any victim by name or indicate the relationship between Keith Brown and the alleged victims.

However, Kimball Thomson, a spokesman for The 5 Browns, said the charges involve Brown's daughters and group members Desirae, 32, Deondra, 30, and Melody, 26. He declined to release further information on the women.

The AP does not generally identify people who say they were sexually abused, but the Brown women have chosen to be identified and are cooperating with police, Thomson said.

None of the women were in court on Thursday, but after the hearing Thomson said they

were satisfied with the plea deal.

Thomson said the Brown children severed their professional relationship with Keith Brown in October of 2008. He was once the manager of The 5 Browns but now has no connection, Thomson said.

Court documents state the allegations stem from separate occasions between November 1990 and October 1992, November 1990 and November 1992, and March 1997 and March 1998 in Utah County.

There are no statutes of limitation in Utah that prevent prosecutors from filing such sex

'King's Speech' writer has his own stutter story

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Telling the story of the stammering king, George VI, has been a lifetime ambition for David Seidler, ever since he subdued his own stutter almost 60 years ago.

Born seven months after George took the British throne in 1936, screenwriter Seidler grew up paralyzed by the same impediment he depicts the monarch struggling to overcome in "The King's Speech," the best-picture favorite at the Academy Awards.

From just before his third birthday to age 16, Seidler stumbled and sputtered over his syllables so badly that he lived in terror of speaking in class, talking to girls, even answering the phone.

"I had huge trouble with the 'H' sound, so when the telephone rang, I would break into a cold sweat, because I couldn't say hello," Seidler, 73, said in an interview.

"I don't know if school still works this way, but in those days you had set places, and the teacher worked up and down the rows. If I could see her working toward me and she was just going to miss me that day, I would fake sick the next day so I didn't have to go to school, because it was so terrifying to be called upon. There came a period when I was actually excused from responding in class. I didn't have to speak in class. It was that bad."

Born in Britain, Seidler developed a stammer in 1940 on a boat to the United States, where his family moved during World War II. Seidler, who had an uncle with a boyhood stammer, figures his own began from the trauma of German bombs, the sea voyage and abrupt separation from his beloved nanny.

As George VI rallied his country, the young Seidler heard the king valiantly struggling through his radio addresses and

crime charges.

Utah County prosecutor David Sturgill said Lone Peak police brought the case to his office last year.

Shapiro couldn't say exactly when Brown first spoke to police, but said the father first went to his Mormon church leader to confess. Sturgill wouldn't comment further on the remarks.

Police were first contacted by Brown's daughters.

"I think this deal was good for both sides," Sturgill said. "This is something the victims wanted resolved, and I think the plea bargain is going to

satisfy their needs."

Brown and Lisa Brown, 54, the mother of the group members, were hospitalized after the Valentine's Day crash that left the Porsche mangled and unrecognizable in Little Cottonwood Canyon on the east side of the Salt Lake valley.

The Browns were initially knocked unconscious, but Keith Brown woke and was able to call 911 from a cell phone.

The cause of the crash remained under investigation, although Unified Police Lt. Justin Hoyal said speed appeared to be a factor in the accident.

hoped he might one day master his own speech troubles.

He eventually did, in his mid-teens, not long after George VI died in 1952 and the crown passed to his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II. Soon after that, the desire to one day chronicle the king's tale came to Seidler, who had decided he wanted to be a writer while still afflicted with his stutter.

"If you're born with two conflicting traits—in my case, I was a born ham, but I was a stutterer—and if you want to be the center of attention but you can't talk, you find another channel, and that's writing," Seidler said.

After college, Seidler tried play writing, then worked in advertising, Australian television and journalism. He came to Hollywood at age 40, "which, of course, is when any writer with any common sense is leaving Los Angeles," Seidler said.

His credits include Francis Ford Coppola's "Tucker: The Man and His Dream," the animated feature "Quest for Camelot" and Elizabeth Taylor's TV movie "Malice in Wonderland."

It was not until a bout with throat cancer in 2005 that Seidler finally started on the story of George VI, known as Bertie to his family.

Seidler had wanted to begin the project in the early 1980s, but Bertie's widow, Elizabeth, the queen mother, politely asked him in a letter, "Please, Mr. Seidler, not during my lifetime," he said.

Elizabeth was in her 80s then, so Seidler figured he would have to wait no more than a few years. But she lived to be 101, dying in 2002.

The film is built around the unlikely friendship between Bertie (Colin Firth, expected to win best actor at the Feb. 27 Oscars) and unconventional

speech therapist Lionel Logue (supporting-actor nominee Geoffrey Rush). Helena Bonham Carter, a supporting-actress contender, plays Bertie's wife.

Though he had researched Bertie's life for decades, Seidler also drew on his own experiences in speech therapy. He underwent many of the tricks depicted in "The King's Speech": having

his mouth stuffed with marbles, reciting while listening to music on headphones.

"The King's Speech" director Tom Hooper first heard of the project from his mother, who attended a reading of a stage version Seidler had written. Afterward,

she called Hooper and told her son she had found his next project.

"It's clearly the best script of his life," Hooper said. "He's really writing about his own childhood experiences through the guise of these two characters."

Seidler shared another experience in his youth that Bertie undergoes in the film, when the king unleashes a torrent of curse words in a burst of anger that momentarily frees him from his stammer.

At age 16, Seidler experienced his own F-bomb cure.

"Adolescence had hit, hormones were raging. I couldn't ask girls out for a date, and even if I could and even if they said yes, what was the point? I couldn't talk to them on a date. This was the '50s. You did talk on dates," Seidler said.

Fury over his condition grew to the point that he was jumping up and down on his bed, belting profanity. He found it empowering.

"If I am stuck with this stutter," Seidler recalls saying to himself, "you all are stuck with listening to me. I am a human being, and I'm going to talk, and you're going to have to F-word listen."



Seidler

Death & Funeral Announcement

GLORIA VALDEZ SILVESTRE

PREDECEASED BY:

Parents: †Leonora Valdez Silvestre & †Wilson T. Silvestre

Best Friend: †Donato G. Waing

Sister: †Aurora Valdez Silvestre

SURVIVED BY:

Daughters:

Mary Cris Silvestre Waing

Mary Lyn Silvestre Waing

MaryAnn Silvestre Waing



Siblings, Spouse & Children:

George & Josie & Children

Meily & Jesus Varazon & Children

Leonora & Romeo Carrera & Children

Adriano & Lyn Lyn Silvestre & Children

Ferdinand & Helen Silvestre & Children

Rebecca & Bhoy Fadarico & Children



Nightly rosary is being said at the residence of the late Gloria Valdez Silvestre in Gualo Rai at 6 pm. On February 21, 2011, the late Gloria Silvestre will be transported from CHC Morgue at 7 am, 7:30 am Responso, followed by Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial is at 10 am, burial will follow at Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Billboard Music Awards returning to TV in May

NEW YORK (AP)—Billboard said Thursday it plans to bring back its annual music awards show on television after it has been dormant since 2006.

The Billboard Music Awards will be shown live on ABC from Las Vegas on May 22. In contrast to the annual Grammy Awards, which awards trophies based on the votes of industry professionals, the Billboard awards will honor artists based on sales figures tracked by the music trade publication, concert at-

tendance and the amount of online activity connected to the artist.

Besides the awards show, Billboard will be aggressive in making more music programming for TV, said Richard Beckman, CEO of Prometheus Global Media, which became the publication's owner last year.

The revival has been in the works since last year, but the timing may be fortuitous. Sunday's Grammy Awards telecast was seen by nearly 27 million viewers, about 10

million more than in 2006 and 2008, the Nielsen Co. said.

"Music has never been a more powerful force in culture than it is today," Beckman said.

The original Billboard awards started in 1989 and were abandoned after the 2006 show. Toward the end, not

enough money was spent on the productions and viewers noticed, Beckman said.

Veteran special events producer Don Mischler will work on this year's event, which Beckman wants to be "an incredible celebration of every facet of music, every genre of music."

Carlos Leon: I didn't ask Madonna for acting tips

NEW YORK (AP)—Carlos Leon may have a close relationship with Madonna, but he has no plans to ask her for acting tips.

When asked about the notion, Leon told AP Entertainment: "God no. Career tips, yes, but never acting tips."

Leon made the comments while promoting the romantic comedy, "Immigration Tango," about two couples arranging fake marriages to get green cards. He and Madonna have a

daughter, Lourdes, together.

Leon says the superstar is supportive of everything he does, saying she "comes to the theater when I do theater."

While they remain great friends, Leon says it's not easy having a child with such a prominent celebrity.

As he puts it: "I can find a cure for AIDS, and every disease possible, and I'll still be associated with Madonna. And that's OK."



Actor Carlos Leon poses for a portrait Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011 in New York.

tract expires at the end of May.

Either they're very good at keeping secrets, or CBS and Couric really don't know what will happen. What seems pretty certain is that the status quo—Couric delivering the evening news at her eight-figure annual salary—won't continue.

Couric has discussed the syndicated talk show market with her good friend and former colleague, ex-NBC Universal Chairman Jeff Zucker. A shorter-term extension with CBS to stay put, at least through the 2012 election, is possible, as is a move to cable where other big TV personalities have found homes, such as Oprah Winfrey, Conan O'Brien and Martha Stewart. Of course, the Web is yet another alternative for Couric in today's marketplace.

Decision time again for Katie Couric

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Couric was in a position of strength five years ago—the last time she faced a career crossroads. The choices were to join CBS News and become the first sole woman anchor of a network evening newscast for \$15 million a year, or stay at NBC, where the "Today" show host could make even more money.

Her next choice is likely to be fraught with more risk, and may not truly be hers.

Last week Jeff Fager, the behind-the-scenes boss of "60 Minutes," was appointed CBS News chairman with Bloomberg's David Rhodes his right-hand man. Their first major issue is likely to be whether Couric remains as the network's top anchor after her current con-

TOP TEN

iTunes' top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending Feb. 14, 2011:

Singles:

1. "Born This Way," Lady GaGa
2. "Firework," Katy Perry
3. "F**kin' Perfect," P!nk
4. "The Time (Dirty Bit)," Black Eyed Peas
5. "Black and Yellow," Wiz Khalifa
6. "Hit the Lights (feat. Lil Wayne)," Jay Sean
7. "Forget You," Cee Lo Green
8. "I Do," Colbie Caillat
9. "S&M," Rihanna
10. "What the Hell," Avril Lavigne

Albums:

1. "Sigh No More," Mumford & Sons
2. "Greatest Hits. So Far!!!" P!nk
3. "Never Say Never (The Remixes)," Justin Bieber
4. "My Worlds Acoustic," Justin Bieber
5. "LOVE," The Beatles
6. "Loud," Rihanna
7. "Recovery," Eminem
8. "I and Love and You," The Avett Brothers
9. "My World 2.0," Justin Bieber
10. "Light Me Up," The Pretty Reckless

Source: The Associated Press

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

It's a boy for Rod Stewart and Penny Lancaster

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a boy for Rod Stewart and his wife, Penny Lancaster. A statement released Thursday said the couple's second son, Aiden, was born Wednesday. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. No other details were released. The statement says: "Mother and baby are healthy and blissfully happy." Their older son, Alastair, was born in 2005. The 66-year-old British rocker's hits include "Forever Young" and "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?"

Paris Hilton's boyfriend gets Las Vegas court date

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Paris Hilton's boyfriend, Cy Waits, has an Aug. 22 court date to fight criminal charges stemming from a Las Vegas Strip traffic stop with the celebrity socialite. The 35-year-old Waits didn't appear Thursday in Las Vegas Justice Court. His attorney, Richard Schonfeld, told a judge that he intends to challenge the constitutionality of Waits' felony charge of being under the influence of marijuana. The former nightclub mogul also faces misdemeanor charges of

marijuana possession and driving under the influence following his Aug. 27 arrest. Hilton pleaded guilty in September to misdemeanor cocaine possession and obstruction charges. She's serving a year of probation. Police stopped the couple in a black Cadillac Escalade after an officer reported a "vapor trail" of marijuana smoke wafting from the vehicle.

Browne, Cooper to play benefit in Tucson, Ariz.

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Jackson Browne, Alice Cooper, David Crosby and Graham Nash will perform in Tucson, Ariz., to benefit a charitable fund established after the shooting there that killed six people and wounded 13 others. Other acts at the March 10 concert that Browne and Cooper announced this week include Sam Moore, Nils Lofgren, Keb' Mo', Jerry Riopelle, Dar Williams, Ozomatli and Calexico. Astronaut Mark Kelly, the husband of wounded U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, plans to speak at the event. It will benefit the Fund for Civility, Respect, and Understanding. Wounded Giffords aide Ron Barber started the fund to support people affected by the Jan. 8 shooting and to hold events promoting

community unity. Tickets for the event at the Tucson Convention Center go on sale Saturday at the center's ticket office and through Ticketmaster.

Ore. man raises awareness after girl killed by dog

ASTORIA, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon man has started an organization to raise awareness about dangerous dogs after his granddaughter was killed by a family pet in an incident that gained national attention. The Daily Astorian reports that Don Wing of Warrenton has started a nonprofit group called Dads Against Dangerous Dogs after his 4-year-old granddaughter, Ashlynn Anderson, was killed by a Rottweiler in her back yard. The girl's death made headlines a year ago, partly because of the nature of the attack and partly because she was the stepdaughter of Jesse Browning and granddaughter of Jay Browning, both of whom appeared in the History Channel series "Ax Men." According to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 4.5 million dog bites were reported in the United States in 2009, with the overwhelming majority to children under 15.

Temper tantrums take a toll on otherwise happy couple

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with "Betsy" for more than three years. For the most part, we get along well, laugh a lot, and have a good relationship.

However, Betsy has an awful temper. She gets angry easily and becomes verbally abusive, saying ugly, hateful things that hurt me deeply. I never know what tiny thing will set her off. Although she usually apologizes later, I still feel the hurt she inflicted on me during her rage.

Abby, I'm in a quandary. I love Betsy very much and am normally happy with her. But these abusive rants are beginning to take a toll on me and on our relationship.

How do you know when it's time to leave someone—especially when you still love that person?

TIRED OF THE TIRADES IN TEMECULA, CALIF.

DEAR TIRED: You and Betsy are overdue for a serious talk. She may have emotional problems—or she may simply be verbally abusive. Give her a choice: Seek help for her problem or the two of you are history. No one has a right to do to someone what she's doing to you. Unless the problem is resolved, this is the atmosphere in which your children will grow up if you should marry her.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old girl. I go to a private school where everyone gets really nice cars for their 16th birthday. I have a 2001 compact economy car. It's nothing compared to the cars my peers get. I know if I start to drive this car when I turn 16, people will make fun of me—behind my back and to my face. I don't want to be seen in it.

I know I should be thankful I have a car at all, but it's hard when you know you'll be made fun of mercilessly. I told my parents that I don't want to get my license because of this problem, but I really do want it. I think the reason they're not getting me another car is because of financial difficulties, so it would be unfair of me to ask for a different one.

Should I deal with the car I have and put up with the kidding, or wait two or three years to get my driver's license?

DRIVING MYSELF CRAZY IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR DRIVING YOURSELF CRAZY: You need to grow up. You're crying poverty with a loaf of bread under both arms. You attend a private school, which isn't cheap, and your parents have given you a car. Be grateful for what you have; most teens are not so lucky. Or consider getting a job so you can start saving for an auto upgrade.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When I go to someone's home for dinner, I often take a dessert or beverage for everyone to enjoy, being careful not to "outdo" my host. I would never, for example, bring an entree.

I recently met a young lady who always brings not only an entree, but also a side and one or two desserts to our host's home, and this seems to be causing a bit of tension with our host. Am I wrong in believing this young lady is being rude?

A GOOD GUEST IN TEXAS

DEAR GOOD GUEST: When invited to someone's home for dinner, it is appropriate to ask, "May I bring something?" If the answer is yes, then you should bring what the host asks for. If the answer is "Just bring yourself," it is considered good manners to bring a small gift such as candy, an assortment of nuts or a bottle of wine if you know your hosts imbibe.

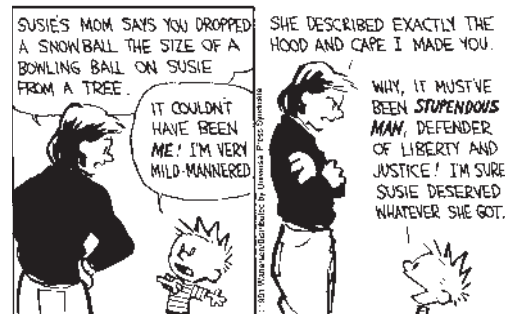
It is not appropriate to bring an entree, sides or a dessert that has not been requested. Are you sure the young lady you mentioned wasn't asked to do what she did?

■■■

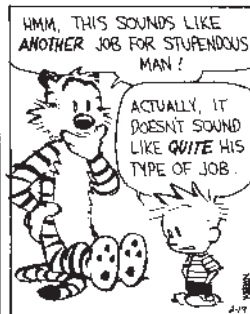
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home

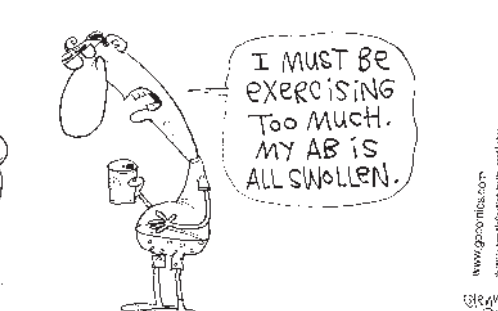
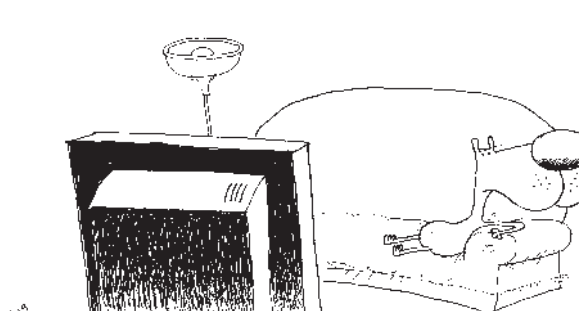


By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 \$ dispenser
4 Bivouac
8 Wound cover
12 Greek X
13 Winged
14 Apple or pear
15 Catch some rays
16 Wrestling style
17 Met melody
18 NBA prize, familiarly
21 Cock and bull?
22 Martini ingredient
23 Soda-shop item
26 Nourished
27 Serenade the moon
30 Hammer-head part
31 Massachusetts cape
32 Sagacious
33 Sweet potato
34 Carton
35 Possibly will

DOWN

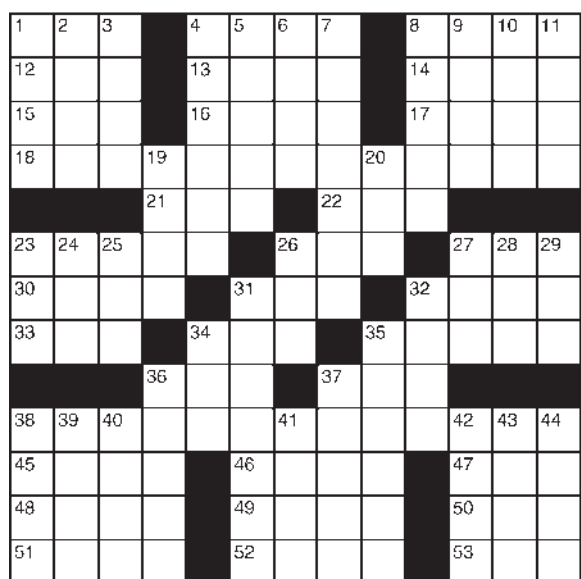
1 Gospels follow-up
2 Siamese
3 Coquette
4 Nut variety
5 Graduates
6 One of the Three Bears
7 Having times
8 Off-spring
9 Mrs. Dithers in "Blondie"
10 Eastern bigwig
11 Rosary component
12 Comparison word
13 Succor
14 "Gilligan's Island" cast member
15 PC picture
16 Vicinity
17 Like pie?
18 Karaoke need
19 Ms. Brocovich

36 Wrigley product
37 Brillo rival
38 1950 Anton Karas hit, with "The"
45 "The Amazing —"
46 Sandwich treat
47 Atmosphere
48 Lotion additive
49 Skittish wildlife
50 Tackle moguls
51 Cooped (up)
52 Dumbo's "wings"
53 Longing

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	T	S	I	R	P	A	S	S	E
I	G	O	O	D	E	A	I	K	E	N
P	O	P	N	E	V	E	R	M	I	N
E	R	A	S	A	U	N	A			
R	A	Z	Z	L	E	O	K	E	N	T
B	O	M	B	S						
A	V	E	R	T	S	S	O	T		
D	A	T	A			W	O	N	Z	O
						D	I	N	A	R
N	E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E	A	D
A	D	I	F	U		F	F	R	I	I
G	O	I	N	G		F	D	A		A

Yesterday's answer 2-19



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Benicio Del Toro, 44; Seal, 48; Jeff Daniels, 56; Smokey Robinson, 71

Happy Birthday: Be careful that you fully understand what's expected of you before you move forward in personal and professional matters. Last-minute changes will leave you in a quandary if you don't have your own agenda intact. Preparation will help you deal with any alterations. Your numbers are 5, 13, 25, 28, 34, 38, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't push too hard or whatever you are trying to achieve will backfire. A live and let live attitude will help to minimize confrontations. You can work quietly on the projects you feel are most important and can bring the highest returns. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Gatherings will lead to intimate discussions about your intentions. Children will play a role in a decision you have to make and a health issue or minor injury must be taken care of quickly. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let anyone push you. If someone is going to take command, let that person be you. Sprucing up your surroundings or visiting a place that will help inspire you should be on your agenda. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Love is in the stars but you must make the first move. Whether you are in a relationship or not, it's important for you to show your feelings and share what you want with your partner or someone you meet who interests you. ★★



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have plenty of ideas to share with friends, peers or anyone else you spend time with. An interesting offer will give you reason to consider a new direction. Visit a place you find conducive to deep thought and you will reduce stress and decide your next move. ★★



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have a decision to make that can change the course of your life. Money, your location and your love life will all be subject to choices. Love is in the stars and socializing will help you realize what you should do next. ★★



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stop being so serious. Distance yourself from worry, stress and whoever causes you grief. Get out with friends or do something that makes you feel good about who you are and what you have to offer. Incorporate rest and relaxation into your day. ★★



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let personal changes at home cause confusion. Go with the flow and do the best you can. Now is not the time to be vague about the way you feel or about your expectations. A change of scenery or people will inspire you. ★★

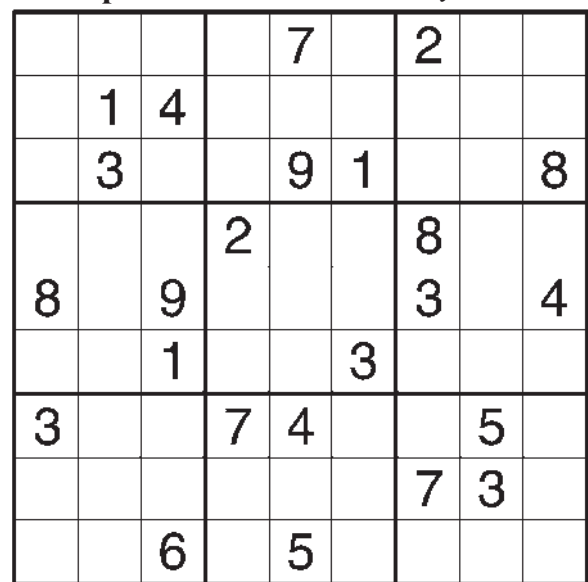


SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Changing your mind at the last minute will cause relationship problems. Confusion and delays while traveling can leave you in a vulnerable situation. Take care of physical or emotional problems before things spin out of control. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/19

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There are all sorts of plans that can be put into motion if you look at your current financial and personal situation. Solutions to cut costs or make a strategic move can be found that will stabilize your home and family life. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The choices you make about money and your personal and professional future will lead to greater stability. You'll have a better chance to achieve goals that you have been unable to accomplish in the past. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be intuitive and should base whatever decision you make on the way you feel. Don't be afraid to show your emotions and to share your plans with someone you consider to be special. Love is in the stars. ★★



Birthdays: You are cautious and size up situations quickly, taking action when you see the right opportunity. You are courageous and intuitive.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HALOGEN LIGHT BULBS

Solution: 4 letters



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Accent, Ball, Base, Brighter, Bulb, Capsule, Carbon, Chemical, Clean, Color, Combination, Constant, Deep, Energy Efficient, Filament, Glass, Grid, Grille, Halide, Heavy, Hotter, Increase, Lamp, Lifetime, Pack, Power, React, Recycle, Repeat, Shape, Size, Smaller, Soft, Spot, Strong, Style, Switch, Track, Tungsten, Vapor, Wall, Wattage, Weather, Whiter

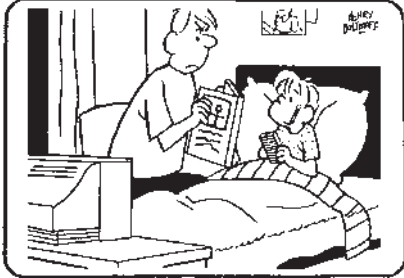
Yesterday's Answer: Cheddar

For more information on our products and services, please visit our website at www.wonderword.com. We are a small business and your support is appreciated. Thank you for playing!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy has thermometer. 2. Book cover has illustration. 3. Blanket is striped. 4. Moon is gone. 5. Chair back is different. 6. Man's shirt has no collar.

Wishing Well®

4	2	6	2	6	8	7	4	3	4	5	8	7
W	S	F	M	O	R	A	A	Y	Y	C	E	F
2	8	4	7	2	6	5	8	4	5	2	4	5
O	L	O	R	O	R	A	Y	U	S	T	T	H
8	7	8	6	5	4	7	4	7	2	7		
O	I	N	G	I	I	E	D	N	E	D	H	V
5	3	4	2	3	5	2	6	8	6	7	5	2
N	O	A	S	U	A	A	I	G	V	I	L	I
6	8	3	6	8	6	4	7	2	7	3	8	7
E	O	R	E	O	N	S	S	L	I	L	D	T
2	8	7	5	8	3	2	5	3	6	8	5	3
I	T	S	E	A	U	N	T	C	E	S	T	K
8	5	2	8	5	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6
T	E	G	E	R	Y	M	D	I	A	E	Y	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

BLUE GENES

ACROSS

- 1 Plot
- 6 Philanthropist
- 11 Send out a page
- 14 Highlander's headgear
- 17 Vision-related
- 19 Likes a lot
- 21 Barcelona bravo
- 22 "I — Rock" ('66 song)
- 23 A few words
- 24 Start of a remark by Laurence J. Peter
- 27 Itch
- 28 Loaf part
- 30 Dram
- 31 Emcee
- 32 Swiss sharp-shooter
- 33 Like feta
- 37 Feta
- 39 Oscar or Tony
- 42 Fragrant plant
- 44 Mets' milieu
- 45 Isolated
- 46 Spud state
- 47 97 Across singer
- 50 Part 2 of remark
- 56 Seal school
- 58 Actress Massen

- 59 TV's "The — Limits"
- 60 Animosity
- 61 Nimble
- 62 Printer's proof
- 64 Be buoyant
- 67 Hindu duty
- 69 Word form for "milk"
- 71 Invalidated
- 75 City on the Allegheny
- 76 Storm
- 78 Bounded
- 79 Smiley's "A Thousand —"
- 81 Medical suffix
- 82 Spirit
- 84 Gogol's " — Bulba"
- 86 Jack of "Barney Miller"
- 89 Ocasek of The Cars
- 90 Part 3 of remark
- 95 Principles
- 97 "Here You Come —" ('77 hit)
- 98 Hellman's "The Children's —"
- 99 Duel tool
- 100 Desk accessory
- 102 On edge
- 103 Stick-in-the-mud?

- 106 Free tickets
- 107 Pavarotti piece
- 109 Third-rate
- 110 Halloween decoration
- 111 Yogi or Smokey
- 112 Political abbr.
- 115 End of remark
- 122 Dolphin Dan
- 124 Kind
- 125 Flagon filler
- 126 Proof-reader's list
- 127 Leisurely, to Liszt
- 128 Singer Brenda
- 129 Literary pseudonym
- 130 Solli's stick
- 131 Wharton or Sitwell

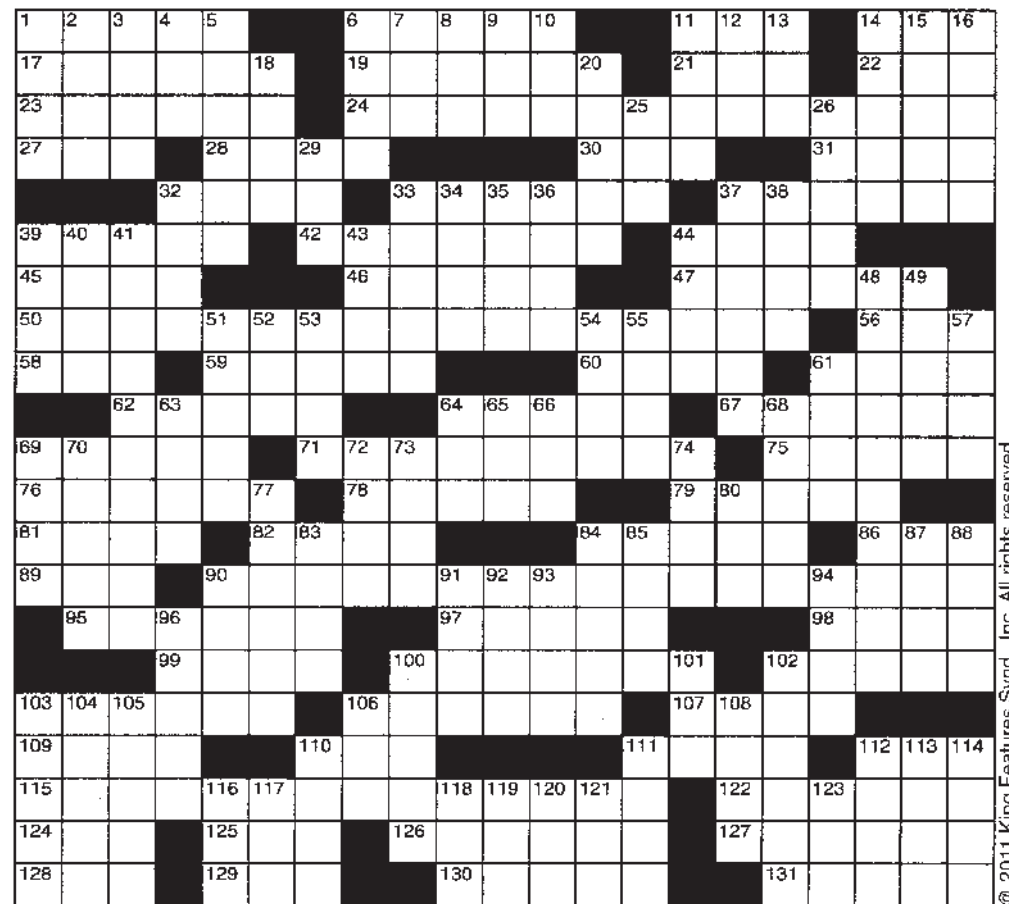
- 10 Word with carpet or cabbage
- 11 Racing legend
- 12 Boxing legend
- 13 Makes one's mark
- 14 Resort lake
- 15 Pile up
- 16 Lusterless
- 18 Virginia —
- 20 Alaskan city
- 25 Italian greyhound, e.g.
- 26 Bread ingredient
- 29 Wee one
- 32 " — bien!"
- 33 Chest material
- 34 Get wind of
- 35 Tennis legend
- 36 A roaring success?
- 37 Rubbed the wrong way?
- 38 Juno, in Greece
- 39 Plus
- 40 Troubles
- 41 Penguins' place
- 43 Ready to eat
- 44 Detect
- 48 Tyranny
- 49 With 101 Down, '79 Sally Field film

- 51 Subject matter
- 52 "Ben —" ('59 film)
- 53 School founded by Henry VI
- 54 Siamese father
- 55 Fill to the gills
- 57 Actress Cannon
- 61 Mall event
- 63 Homeric characters
- 64 So. state
- 65 Mouth piece?
- 66 Habitually, to Herrick
- 68 Neigh-sayer?
- 69 Den
- 70 Upstairs basement?
- 72 — Bator
- 73 Singer Horne
- 74 Irritated exclamation (hurry)
- 77 More enthusiastic
- 80 Scoundrel
- 83 — majesty
- 84 Ridicules
- 85 Superior
- 87 Burden of proof
- 88 Brute
- 90 " — the mornin'"
- 91 Guys' counterparts

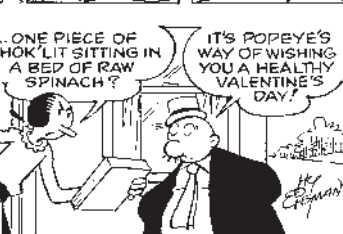
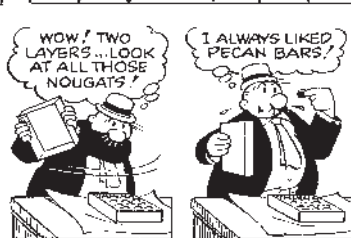
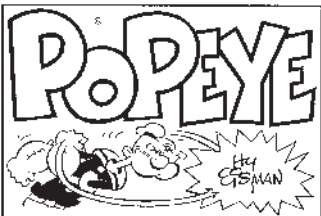
- 92 Corporate clashers
- 93 Bank statistic
- 94 Big bird
- 96 Indira Gandhi's father
- 100 Enjoy the beach
- 101 See
- 102 Diatribe
- 103 "To fetch —"
- 104 Clavell's " — House"
- 105 Alistair or Sam
- 106 Part of PST
- 108 Sita's husband
- 110 Dylan's colleague
- 111 Fiber source
- 112 Leslie
- 113 Step —
- 114 Cry of contempt
- 116 Check
- 117 Jeff Lynne's grp.
- 118 Sphere
- 119 Singing syllable
- 120 It may be tipped
- 121 WWII area
- 123 "Great!"

DOWN

- 1 Duplicate
- 2 Want badly
- 3 Overdo a tan
- 4 — carte
- 5 Tied tightly
- 6 "The Witches" author
- 7 Horatian creation
- 8 Neither's partner
- 9 Vein contents

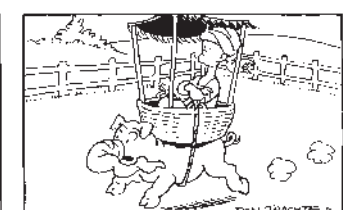
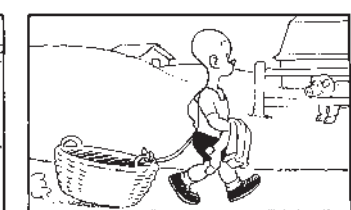
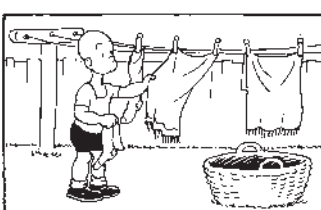
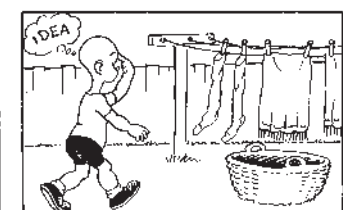
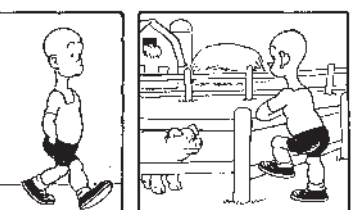
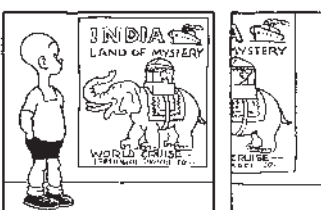
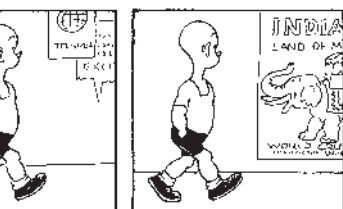
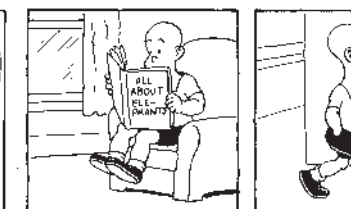
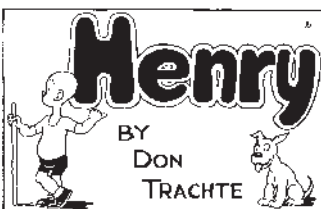
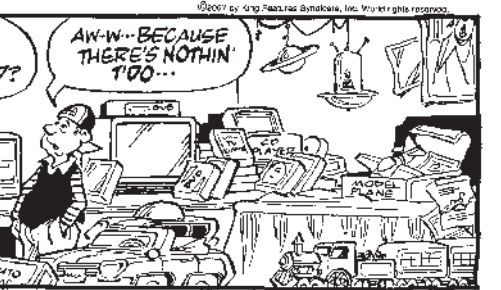
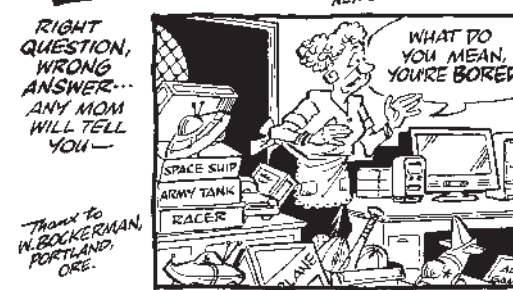
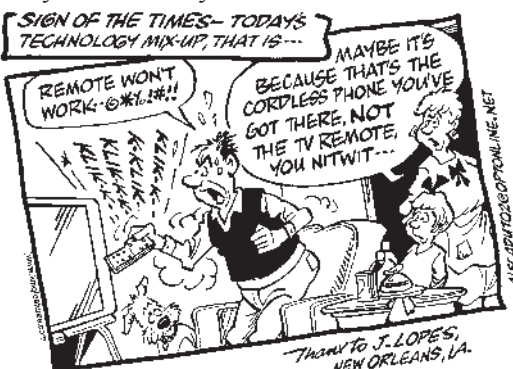


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They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



1. GEOGRAPHY: The North Sea is a part of what larger body of water?
2. MOVIES: Who directed the movie "Nashville"?
3. COMICS: What was the name of Clark Kent's boss at "The Daily Planet"?
4. THEATER: How many Pulitzer

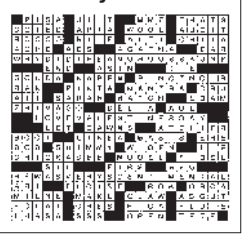
- Prizes did Eugene O'Neill win in his lifetime?
5. BIBLE: What was the name of Abraham's wife?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the name of the apartment building where John Lennon lived

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- before he was murdered?
7. ANATOMY: Where are the adrenal glands located?
8. HISTORY: What revolution did Ernesto "Che" Guevara helped lead?
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S.

- president helped organize the Rough Riders cavalry?
10. BUSINESS: Which company has the nickname "Big Blue"?

Saturday's Answers



1. Atlantic Ocean
3. Perry White
4. Four
5. Sarah

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



Saipan Tribune's Classified Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

4 CYLINDER • POWER DOOR, LOCKS &
WINDOWS • AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
W/ AIRCON • CD PLAYER • NEW TIRES
49K MILES • EXCELLENT CONDITION

\$14,200.00

CALL: 285-5863



Is seeking for individuals who are self motivated with excellent interpersonal skills to join our team as:

6G CERTIFIED WELDER

POSITION QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Diploma or General Education Degree.
- Minimum of two (2) years experience.
- TIG, MIG certifications a plus.

PAY RATE:

- \$7.50/HR plus benefits.

All qualified candidates must submit application no later than February 28, 2011 to the Human Resources Office of Seafix, Incorporated, Pacific Training Bldg., Pale Arnold Road, Puerto Rico, Sainan. Tel: 670 322-0997.

Seafix, Incorporated is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Looking for
2-3 years
experienced

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

**Interested applicants,
please call 287-6532**

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/
24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi &
ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA
applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/
students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
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Rose leads Bulls past Spurs, 109-99



CHICAGO (AP)—Derrick Rose had a career-high 42 points and the Chicago Bulls headed into the All-Star break with an impressive 109-99 victory over the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs on Thursday night.

Luol Deng had 19 points and Carlos Boozer finished with 15 for Chicago, which shot 54 percent in its fourth consecutive win. The Bulls improved to 38-16 after winning 41 games last season.

Once again hearing “M-V-P! M-V-P!” chants, Rose was at his best when San Antonio challenged Chicago in the fourth quarter. He had 13 points in the final period, answering Spurs baskets with acrobatic drives and long jumpers.

Rose’s long jumper as the shot clock expired with 3:21 left gave Chicago a 101-90 lead and took the steam out of one San Antonio rally. He also finished with eight assists and five rebounds.

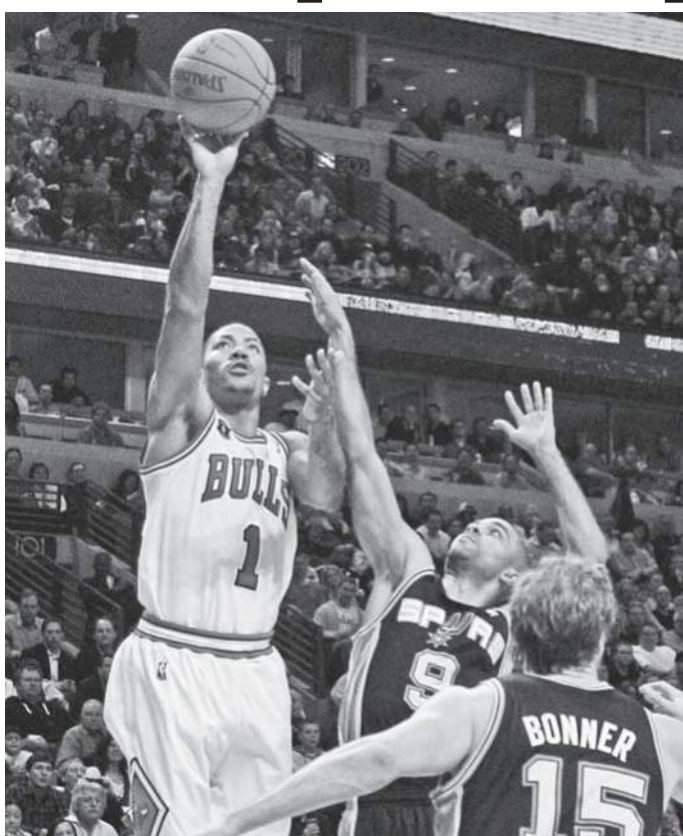
Tony Parker scored 26 points and All-Star Manu Ginobili added 16 for San Antonio, which had won six of seven. Reserve Gary Neal made four 3-pointers and finished with 16 points.

Chicago led 83-75 after three quarters and grabbed control early in the fourth. Ronnie Brewer kickstarted a 11-2 run with a dunk and finished it off with a jumper that made it 94-80 with 8:08 remaining.

Tim Duncan had 14 points and nine rebounds hours after Spurs coach Gregg Popovich announced he would replace Yao Ming in the Western Conference’s starting lineup for Sunday’s All-Star game in Los Angeles.

Duncan enters the break with career-low averages in points and rebounds, but is a key reason why San Antonio leads the NBA with a 46-10 record.

The Spurs trailed for much of the night in the finale of their annual rodeo road trip but challenged Chicago with several bursts. Rose and the Bulls had an answer each time while im-



Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose, left, shoots over San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, center, and Matt Bonner during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, in Chicago.

proving to 25-4 at home in their best start at the United Center since 1997-98 championship team won 25 of its first 27 home games.

Duncan hit a running hook and Parker converted a three-point play to help San Antonio pull within two with 4:49 left in the third. But Deng stopped the spurt with a 3-pointer and Boozer had three straight points to make it 79-71.

Even with the loss, it was a banner first half for San Antonio, which set several franchise records for fastest starts. The Spurs went 6-3 on their nine-game trip and open the second half with a three-game homestand.

Rose grabbed a microphone before the game and thanked the fans for making him Chicago’s first All-Star starter since Michael Jordan in 1998.

The dynamic point guard then put on another show as the Bulls finished a strong start to the season that established them as one of the NBA elite teams once again.

Rose slithered through San Antonio’s stout defense for 21 points in the first half, making eight of 12 shots from the field. He scored Chicago’s last six points of the second quarter, connecting on a nice runner, a jumper and two free throws to give the Bulls a 58-51 lead at the break.

Mavericks 112, Suns 106

At Phoenix, Dirk Nowitzki scored 35 points to lead Dallas past Phoenix and to its 13th victory in 14 games.

Tyson Chandler had 12 points and 12 rebounds, including a tip-in with 19 seconds left. Jason Terry scored 16, capped by a pair of free throws with 14.1 seconds to play to give Dallas a 111-106 lead. Shawn Marion added 12 points as the Mavericks improved to 9-0 against Pacific Division foes, including 4-0 on the road.

Channing Frye scored 24 points and Steve Nash 15 points and 14 assists in just the third loss for the Suns in their last 11 games.

Nets owner has not changed his mind on Carmelo Anthony

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov has not changed his mind about the franchise’s pursuit of Carmelo Anthony.

The Russian told team executives last month to end drawn-out trade talks for the Denver Nuggets All-Star forward and nothing has changed with the NBA trading deadline a week away, his spokeswoman said Thursday.

There were reports on Wednesday that the Nets and Nuggets had renewed talks about a deal for Anthony. However, Prokhorov spokeswoman Ellen Pinchuk said in an e-mail that the billionaire maintains his stance, despite the reports.

“Mikhail has not changed his mind,” Pinchuk wrote.

When asked if that meant Prokhorov does not want the Nets to reopen talks with Denver at this point, the spokeswoman said:

“What I said is what I said,” she insisted. “Not what you said.”

Prokhorov stunned NBA followers last month during a visit to New Jersey when he told the team to end trade talks for Anthony just a day before he was to have a sitdown with the player. At the time Prokhorov said the much ballyhooed, 15-player, three-team deal that also involved the Detroit Pistons had become too expensive. The negotiations had also become too public and the constant rumors were hurting his team.

Prokhorov also said at the time there was no chance the talks would be resurrected.

A league official with knowl-

edge of the Nets told The Associated Press on Thursday that Denver recently contacted New Jersey to see if there would be any interest in acquiring Anthony, who can become a free agent at the end of the season. The official asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak for the Nets.

The Nets and Knicks have been mentioned as the most likely future home for Anthony, should he be traded. And Anthony has been quoted several times that he would love to play for the Knicks.

But the Nets might have more to offer the Nuggets. Rookie power forward Derrick Favors, the No. 3 pick in the draft, has tremendous upside as a 19-year-old. His first season has not been overly impressive because of foul problems and a general learning curve. New Jersey also has five first-round draft picks over the next two years to offer.

Prokhorov and Nets general manager Billy King are expected to be in Los Angeles for the All-Star game this weekend, and Prokhorov might get a chance to say hello this time to Anthony. Of course, any trade to New Jersey would be contingent on Anthony signing a \$65 million contract extension that’s been on the table since June.

Anthony also would have to know that coming to New Jersey probably would end his playoff hopes. The Nets have a 17-40 mark entering the break and are 8 1/2 games out of a playoff berth with 25 left.

The Nuggets (32-25), meanwhile, have the seventh best record in the West.

Lakers GM Kupchak says trade unlikely

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mitch Kupchak wanted a little advice from his predecessor as the Los Angeles Lakers’ general manager after his two-time NBA champions lost to the lowly Cleveland Cavaliers.

“That handbook you left me on how to be a great general manager doesn’t include a chapter on what to do after a game like last night,” Kupchak said to Jerry West.

West was as silent as a statue Thursday night, leaving Kupchak to figure out the confounding champs on his own during the All-Star break.

After attending the unveiling of West’s statue outside Staples Center on Thursday night, Kupchak said he’s unlikely to make a trade before the Feb. 24 deadline, even while their fans are abuzz with rumors claiming the Lakers have shown interest in acquiring disgruntled Denver superstar Carmelo Anthony, or getting rid of struggling forward Ron Artest.

“I think it’s unlikely,” Kupchak said. “But there’s eight days to go. All of the general manag-

ers are here in Los Angeles this weekend, and there will be a lot of yapping. There will be a lot of guys moving off to the side, and there will be a lot of phone calls. ... I stand by what I said, that it’s unlikely, but I don’t think any general manager can stand here and say there will be absolutely no changes in eight days, in particular at this time of year.”

The Lakers headed into the break with three straight road losses, including Wednesday’s lifeless effort against the NBA’s worst team in Cleveland.

Yet Los Angeles (38-19), which won the first four games of its lengthy trip, still has the league’s sixth-best record at the break and a nine-game lead in the Pacific Division.

Although Kupchak says the loss to Cleveland is the Lakers’ rock-bottom worst moment of the season “to date,” he’s determined not to make a panic move.

“There’s a tendency to overreact, and I get it,” Kupchak said. “This team is not that different than the team we had last

year, and in some ways, it’s been improved. We have guys that didn’t forget overnight how to practice and play.”

The Lakers returned home for the break after back-to-back losses to Charlotte and Cleveland during a season that already included home losses to Sacramento, Milwaukee and Memphis. They’ve also struggled against the NBA’s best teams despite beating the Boston Celtics earlier in the road trip.

The Lakers’ overstuffed \$91 million payroll limits their flexibility in deals, although owner Jerry Buss hasn’t objected to paying a hefty luxury tax as long as his team is a title contender.

“Dr. Buss wants to win now,” Kupchak said. “I don’t think that’s a question. It’s my job to look to the future a little bit, but we have a coach that wants to win now, too. I don’t think that’s going to change.”

Coach Phil Jackson repeatedly has said he’ll retire after the season. Although the Lakers’ core is mostly still in its prime,

Los Angeles has eight regulars who are at least 30 years old.

The Lakers reportedly kicked the tires earlier this month on a potential trade for Anthony, the NBA’s sixth-leading scorer, although other reports claimed the rumor was nonsense. Another report claimed the Lakers have attempted to trade Artest, whose statistical averages and defensive performances are both near the lowest points of the wildcard forward’s career.

After Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol represent the Lakers in Sunday’s All-Star game at Staples Center, the Lakers return at home against Atlanta on Tuesday night. Kupchak hopes they won’t shake off the embarrassment of losing in Cleveland during their long weekend off.

“A lot of times, maybe it’s the way it’s supposed to be,” Kupchak said. “We have five days to think about it, and maybe that turns out to be a rallying point. ... Let’s see where it leads. Sometimes you have to hit rock bottom before you can climb up.”

Popovich says Duncan will start All-Star game

CHICAGO (AP)—The Western Conference needs a starting center for the All-Star game in Los Angeles, and Gregg Popovich says he knows the perfect person for the job.

The San Antonio coach selected Spurs star Tim Duncan to replace Yao Ming in the lineup for Sunday’s game at Staples Center, staying in his own locker room instead of picking Clippers rookie Blake Griffin playing in his home arena or Timberwolves double-double machine Kevin Love.

“I think it’s totally appropriate and obvious that he should be the

starter,” Popovich said before the Spurs’ 109-99 loss at Chicago on Thursday night. “I don’t have any problem with it.”

Griffin, Love and Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki all have better numbers than Duncan, who is averaging a career-low 13.4 points and 9.2 rebounds. But San Antonio (46-10) has the NBA’s best record and the Spurs are closely monitoring the 34-year-old Duncan’s minutes, a factor in the lower averages.

Duncan didn’t know about his 12th consecutive All-Star start until he was asked about it after he had 14 points and nine

boards against Chicago.

“I didn’t expect to be there this year and I definitely didn’t expect to start, so definitely a great honor,” he said. “I don’t know, year-in and year-out I continue to be on that starting squad. I really don’t know why I’m there but I’ll take it.”

Houston center Yao was voted in by the fans but is injured.

This will be Duncan’s 13th All-Star appearance overall. He was the co-MVP of the 2000 game with Shaquille O’Neal.

Guard Manu Ginobili also is going to Los Angeles to represent San Antonio.

Duncan’s insertion into the starting lineup may be the biggest All-Star decision for Popovich, who said he is planning on doing no coaching during the game.

“Just thinking about walking into that locker room is a humbling and awesome experience,” he said. “Just to know you’re in the same room with those kinds of players, the best on the planet, it almost makes you want to laugh. You really have to pinch yourself to know that you’re in that room, and I think it would be quite forward on my part to try to coach those guys.”

Tigers' Cabrera arrested on DUI charge in Florida



**L A K E -
LAND, Fla.**
(AP)—De-
troit Tigers

star Miguel Cabrera was arrested late Wednesday on suspicion of drunken driving in Florida, leaving teammates stunned and concerned about the slugging first baseman less than a week into spring training.

The 27-year-old Cabrera has struggled with drinking-related problems in the past, but he's coming off perhaps his best season. He hit .328 with 38 home runs last year and finished second in the American League MVP vote.

Cabrera was spotted by a deputy in a car with a smoking engine alongside a road in Fort Pierce. Inside the vehicle, Cabrera smelled of alcohol, had slurred speech and took a swig from a bottle of scotch in front of a deputy, according to the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. He refused to cooperate and more deputies were called to the scene.

The arrest occurred about 110 miles southeast of Lakeland, where the Tigers hold spring training. Pitchers and catchers began workouts earlier this week, but position players don't start until Saturday.

"It was obviously a shock to everybody," catcher Alex Avila said.

Cabrera is "very embarrassed" and plans to apologize to his teammates and the Tigers organization when he reports to camp Saturday, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The person said he talked to Cabrera after the slugger was released from jail, then spoke to the AP on

condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to publicly discuss the incident.

General manager Dave Dombrowski said Thursday afternoon he'd spoken briefly to Cabrera. Dombrowski has also been in touch with the commissioner's office.

Detroit's position players are supposed to report Friday for Saturday's workout.

"He would love to be here (Friday), but we still need to work through some of this," Dombrowski said. "We fully support him trying to get help for his situation. You do that for anybody you know, if it was an employee, a friend,

whatever it may be."

According to the police report, Cabrera was wandering into the road with his hands up before he was handcuffed. He kept saying, "Do you know who I am? You don't know anything about my problems," and cursed at deputies who tried to get him into a patrol car.

One deputy struck Cabrera in the left thigh several times with his knee after Cabrera pushed into him, causing the ballplayer to fall into the patrol car. Cabrera refused to take a breath test, deputies said.

He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and

resisting an officer without violence. He posted \$1,350 bond and was released from jail at 7:45 a.m. Thursday.

"It's hard," said second baseman Carlos Guillen, who is in camp recovering from an injury. "He's a really good friend. I know he was working hard in the winter to have a good season this year."

The news was slow to reach the Tigers' spring training complex, but Guillen, who like Cabrera is from Venezuela, was shaken when he found out.

"I worry about him," Guillen said.

Manager Jim Leyland declined to discuss Cabrera's

situation.

When asked if Cabrera might have to spend time away from the team for counseling, Dombrowski said he didn't know.

"Those are in experts' hands," he said. "There's people that are experts in these areas, doctors that handle these types of situations. The commissioner's office and players' association work very closely together in trying to help these types of situations. Their knowledge far exceeds mine."

Late in the 2009 season, police said Cabrera got into a fight with his wife after a night of drinking, shortly before his team lost a key game. The Tigers then

lost an AL Central tiebreaker to Minnesota.

Dombrowski had to pick up Cabrera at the station after that incident. No charges were filed.

Avila trained with Cabrera this offseason, and the two are close.

"As hard as we work in this game, and everybody wants to win, there's obviously things that are more important in life. ... That's one thing that I know Miguel knows—that he has a family here," Avila said. "Millions of people have problems with alcohol throughout the entire world. It's not something that can't be overcome. It's something that can be overcome, but you need a lot of help."

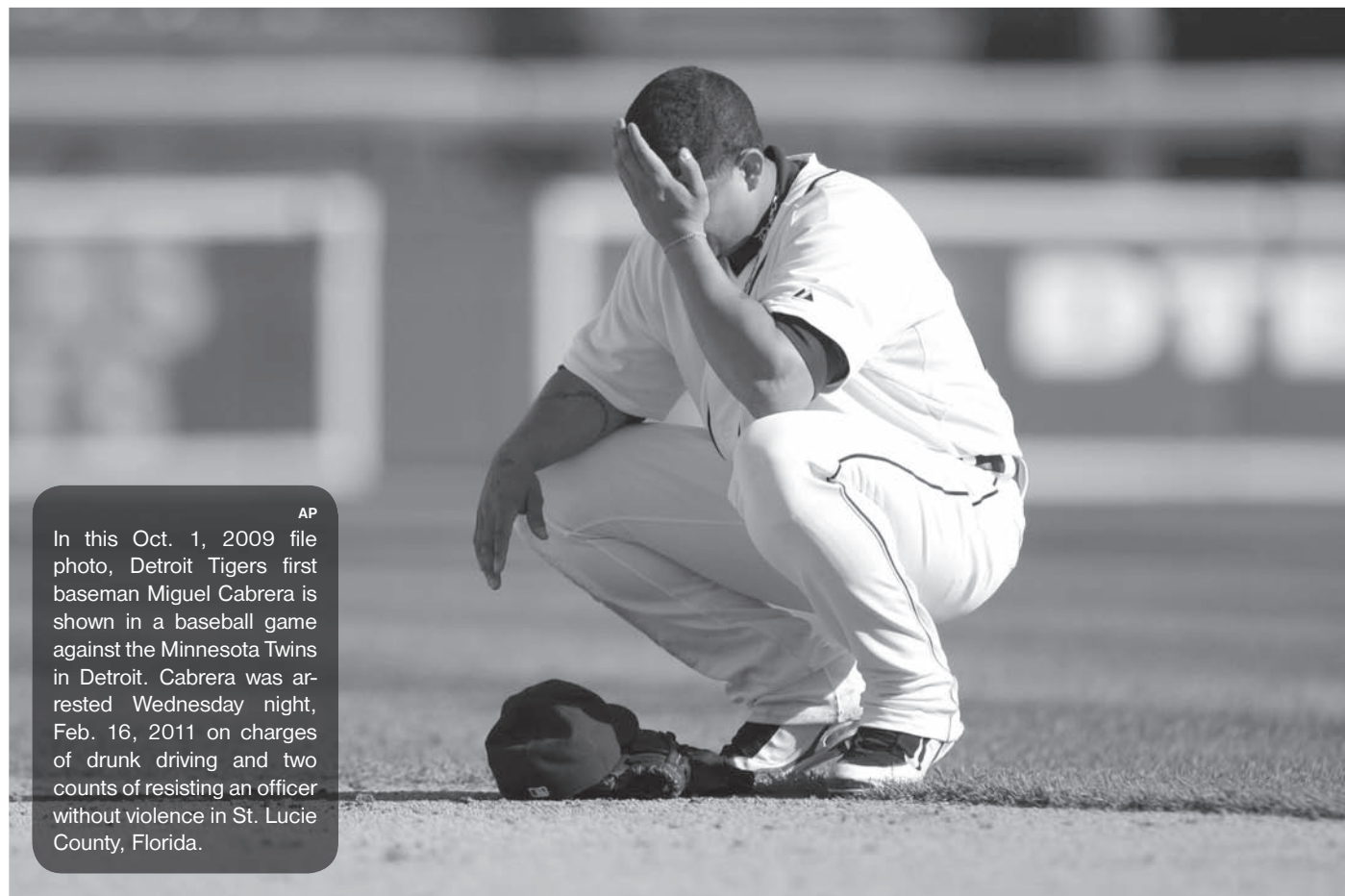
During spring training last year, Cabrera said he was done drinking alcohol after he spent much of the offseason in counseling.

"You guys write in the paper 'alcoholic,' that's not right," he said last March before a spring training workout. "I don't know how to explain, but it's not an alcohol problem."

Cabrera has a home in Boca Raton, about 75 miles south of Fort Pierce. There was no phone listing for him.

Detroit went 81-81 last season but is hoping to make a run at the AL Central title after adding Victor Martinez to hit in the middle of the lineup with Cabrera. For a team that entered spring training full of optimism, the news Thursday was jarring.

"When you hear something like this, you don't really think about the baseball part," Avila said. "You think about Miguel personally, and what he's going through."



AP
In this Oct. 1, 2009 file photo, Detroit Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera is shown in a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Detroit. Cabrera was arrested Wednesday night, Feb. 16, 2011 on charges of drunk driving and two counts of resisting an officer without violence in St. Lucie County, Florida.

Logjam at Riviera leaderboard

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ten years after Robert Allenby won a six-man playoff at Riviera, he was part of a nine-way tie for the lead Thursday in the Northern Trust Open.

Allenby kept it simple on a gorgeous day along Sunset Boulevard with a 4-under 67 that turned out to be enough for a share of the lead when former Ryder Cup captain Corey Pavin faltered late.

It was the highest score to lead after one round at Riviera in 15 years.

Also atop the leaderboard when play was suspended by darkness were John Senden, Martin Laird, Spencer Levin, Aaron Baddeley, Ben Martin, Bill Haas, Carl Pettersson and J.B. Holmes.

Peter Tomasulo could join them if he makes a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole when he resumes his round Friday morning. As it is, the PGA Tour said nine players tied for the lead were the most after any round since it began keeping records

in 1970.

In what might be the best weather all week, no one separated himself in mild temperatures, a light breeze and a sky clear enough to offer a peek of the Pacific Ocean through the eucalyptus trees.

A few players managed to stand out.

Dustin Johnson's caddie thought his tee time was 40 minutes later than it really was, so Johnson was on the practice range in the middle of his warm-up routine when he was supposed to be high on the hill on the first tee. Johnson was penalized two shots, and nearly was disqualified. Players have five minutes to get to the tee, and Johnson got their with 6 seconds to spare.

He wound up with a 73.

Then came the retro movement of Pavin and Fred Couples, who combined to win this tournament four times during

a six-year stretch in the early 1990s. Couples, whose back is in such bad shape that he's going for treatment next week, made three straight birdies at the turn and shot a 68.

Pavin was the only player to reach 5 under, and it would have been an amazing story if he didn't have to play the last six holes. But he made three bogeys in the twilight, including his last two holes, and had to settle for a 69.

"You always want to finish off a round, so it's a little disappointing in that regard," Pavin said. "But I just went out there and hit every shot the best I could, and I just didn't finish the way I wanted to. But if I had said, 'Take 2 under before the round started,' I maybe would have taken it. I'm not sure."

Phil Mickelson got off to a great start with birdies on his opening two holes, only to look

suspect with a few irons and a few putts. He wound up with a 71. His hope is that the rain holds off until he finishes the second round.

"I thought it was going to be a great day but I gave a lot of shots back, made too many bogeys," Mickelson said. "I'll have a good chance tomorrow morning to get out and try to go low. This afternoon it was tough to make some putts. Even though there were some low scores, I struggled getting the ball to go in. And I'm looking forward to tomorrow's early round."

Vijay Singh, who turns 48 on Tuesday, continued to showed signs of getting back into the mix. He had a 68 and was in a large group that included Padraig Harrington.

Geoff Ogilvy was part of the pack at 69, with a round that included a 3-iron to tap-in range for eagle and what will go down as a two-putt par from 70 feet, even though it was much better. Realizing the greens were so fast and the putt could break sharply to the left and roll into a bunker, he chipped his sand wedge some

20 feet right of the pin and watched it roll to a foot away.

Typical of this tournament, not everyone could finish. Fourteen players will return Friday to finish the round, although the conditions could be much different.

Rain is expected for much of the next two days, which is why Haas was pleased with his start.

"If I was 2 over right now, I wouldn't like the forecast," he said. "Nobody likes the forecast, anyway, but we've all got to play in it, and I was fortunate to shoot a good round when it was nice."

Allenby has not won on the PGA Tour in 10 years, and that 2001 season started with a dramatic win at Riviera. In a six-man playoff that featured two players at Riviera this year as broadcasters—Dennis Paulson and Brandel Chamblee—he hit 3-wood from 235 yards in a cold, driving rain to about 5 feet for birdie on the 18th.

That was a decade ago, although Allenby hasn't lost his love for this course.

"This golf course suits me," he said.

For the first round, it seemed to suit just about everybody. The Aussies ruled early, with Senden and Baddeley joining Allenby atop the leaderboard among those who teed off in the morning.

"Maybe looking at all the big gum trees around the golf course makes this feel like we're at home," Senden said.

No one feels more at home than Couples, although there were times he wishes he could have been somewhere else. His back has been acting up, and it started to get to him toward the end of his round.

"It's the shorter clubs that kill me," Couples said. "But at the end of the day, I played 18 holes and had a great round."

He then mentioned an MRI he has planned for Monday, followed by a treatment that he did not want to discuss. And he left little room to guess what it might be, saying that it was a "couple little things that may happen," then describing it as "pretty drastic" and that "it'll be fun for me to do it."

That was about as easy to decipher as the leaderboard.



3 teams share Belau softball lead

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	14	.741	—
New York	28	26	.519	12
Philadelphia	27	29	.482	14
New Jersey	17	40	.298	24 1/2
Toronto	15	41	.268	26
Southeast Division				
Miami	41	15	.732	—
Orlando	36	21	.632	5 1/2
Atlanta	34	21	.618	6 1/2
Charlotte	24	32	.429	17
Washington	15	39	.278	25
Central Division				
Chicago	38	16	.704	—
Indiana	24	30	.444	14
Milwaukee	21	34	.382	17 1/2
Detroit	21	36	.368	18 1/2
Cleveland	10	46	.179	29
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	46	10	.821	—
Dallas	40	16	.714	6
New Orleans	33	25	.569	14
Memphis	31	26	.544	15 1/2
Houston	26	31	.456	20 1/2
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	35	19	.648	—
Portland	32	24	.571	4
Denver	32	25	.561	4 1/2
Utah	31	26	.544	5 1/2
Minnesota	13	43	.232	23
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	38	19	.667	—
Phoenix	27	27	.500	9 1/2
Golden State	26	29	.473	11
L.A. Clippers	21	35	.375	16 1/2
Sacramento	13	40	.245	23
Yesterday's Games				
Chicago 109, San Antonio 99				
Dallas 112, Phoenix 106				

NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scores Thursday from the \$6.5-million Northern Trust Open at the par-71 (35-36), 7,325-yard Riviera Country Club:

PARTIAL FIRST ROUND	
John Senden	33-34-67
Martin Laird	34-33-67
Robert Allenby	33-34-67
Spencer Levin	33-34-67
Aaron Baddeley	31-36-67
Ben Martin	31-36-67
Bill Haas	34-33-67
Carl Pettersson	34-33-67
J.B. Holmes	33-34-67
Padraig Harrington	33-35-68
Vijay Singh	33-35-68
Brian Davis	35-33-68
Fred Couples	33-35-68
Luke Donald	31-37-68
Matt Kuchar	33-36-69
Geoff Ogilvy	32-37-69

MASTERS

From Page 28

champion Fielders taking on last year's pennant champions St. Michael's Angels at 6pm.

After a scoreless first inning, the visiting Ol'Aces hit the board first with an RBI single by Delbart Aguon that scored T.J. Cuz in the top of the second, but the Masters answered with four runs in the bottom frame.

Jordan Reyes knocked in Harlan Reyes and later stole home. Then Mabel Ngringemelas drove in Bob O'Conner and Justin Reyes with a base hit.

Both teams came up empty in the third and fourth innings and the Ol'Aces got two runs back in the top of the fifth. John Aguon and Eric Lizama both reached off hits and scored off errors.

Masters made it 5-3 in the bottom frame with a run scored by Greg Camacho off a passed ball.

After a scoreless sixth, the

Stuart Appleby	33-36-69
J.J. Henry	33-36-69
Harrison Frazer	35-34-69
Ryan Moore	34-35-69
Retief Goosen	34-35-69
Justin Rose	34-35-69
Corey Pavin	35-34-69
Chad Collins	35-35-70
Michael Sim	34-36-70
Chris DiMarco	35-35-70
Charlie Wi	34-36-70
Stewart Cink	36-34-70
Rory Sabbatini	36-34-70
Pat Perez	35-35-70
Trevor Immelman	35-35-70
Jason Dufner	34-36-70
Kevin Stadler	35-35-70
Jarrod Lyle	31-39-70
Dean Wilson	34-36-70
Ryan Palmer	34-36-70
K.J. Choi	32-38-70
D.J. Trahan	37-34-71
Alex Cejka	35-36-71
Brandt Jobe	35-36-71
Steve Marino	36-35-71
Troy Merritt	34-37-71
Mark Wilson	35-36-71
Louis Oosthuizen	33-38-71
John Rollins	34-37-71
Yuta Ikeda	32-39-71
Jeff Maggert	37-34-71
Kevin Sutherland	35-36-71
Matt Jones	35-36-71

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BELAU STANDINGS		
Asahi	2	0
Wuzz Up	2	0
TKK 2	2	0
Red Torch	1	0
Falcons	1	0
Koror Tigers	1	1
Dial Rent 2 Own	1	1
Auel Auel	1	1
Hilitai	0	2
Go for Broke	0	2
Haga T	0	2
Peleliu	0	2

SML SCHEDULE

Feb. 22	Fielders vs Angels
Feb. 24	Brewers vs Ol'Aces
March 2	D-9ers vs Angels
March 4	Masters vs Brewers
March 8	D-9ers vs Masters
March 10	Ol'Aces vs Fielders
March 16	Brewers vs D-9ers
March 18	Angels vs Ol'Aces
March 22	Masters vs Fielders
March 24	D-9ers vs Angels
March 30	Brewers vs Fielders
April 1	Ol'Aces vs Masters
April 5	Brewers vs Angels
April 7	Masters vs D-9ers
April 13	Ol'Aces vs Angels
April 15	Fielders vs D-9ers
April 19	Brewers vs Ol'Aces
April 21	Masters vs Fielders
April 27	Angels vs Masters
April 29	Brewers vs D-9ers
May 3	Fielders vs Angels
May 5	Ol'Aces vs D-9ers
May 11	Brewers vs Masters
May 13	Fielders vs Ol'Aces

Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama drove in Cris George in the top of the seventh inning.

The Masters remained quiet in the bottom and the Ol'Aces tied the game 5-all in the top of the eighth frame. With one out Nunu Kapileo tripled home Jay Camacho, but the Masters got out of the jam.

The Masters then went 1-2-3 in the bottom, but forced the Ol'Aces to do the same to start the final inning of regulation.

In the bottom of the ninth, the Masters third batter Reno Celis hit the game-winning single that scored Manny Tenorio.

It was a sort of redemption for Celis as he was not seeing the ball very well at the plate up until that point. Still Celis bagged the big hit when his team needed it most. Winning pitcher Ed Santos gave up three runs, one earned, and four hits in five innings with four strikeouts, a walk, and a hit-by-pitch.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Three squads are tied for the lead in the 2011 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-Pitch League after posting separate wins last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

The Bridge Capital-supported Asahi won over the Hilitai to improve to a 2-0 win-loss record, the same mark TKK 2 and Wuzz Up enjoy after prevailing over Haga T and Auel Auel, respectively.

In other results, Koror Tigers and Dial Rent 2 Own recovered from their opening day losses by posting separate victories last weekend, while four other squads dropped back-to-back games.

Asahi 11, Hilitai 3

Asahi cruised to its second win in a row after beating Hilitai in six innings, 11-3.

Besong Olkeriil went 3-for-3 for Asahi, making a double, two singles, and one run. Franko Flores was 3-for-4 at bat and recorded two runs, one triple, and three RBIs.

Asahi led by only three, 6-3, after failing to score in the third and fourth inning, but sealed the win with a six-run output in the last two. Hilitai was shut out in the last two innings.

Dial Rent 2 Own 5, Go for Broke 4

In the second game, Dial Rent 2 Own edged Go for Broke, 5-4.

Irvin Saralu hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning to give Dial Rent 2 Own a 5-2 lead, and the team hung in there,

allowing Go for Broke only two runs in the last three innings.

Go for Broke scored only in the fourth and fifth inning, while Dial Rent 2 Own managed one run each in the first to third inning.

TKK 2 17, Haga T 17

TKK 2 routed Haga T in the third game of the weekend, 17-2.

An eight-run bottom of the first was all TKK 2 needed to seal the game. Haga T failed to move out of trouble after scoring only two runs in the fifth inning.

Joey Dela Cruz and Toi Celis made three runs each in TKK 2's easy win.

Koror Tigers 6, Peleliu 3

The Koror Tigers broke into the win column after a 6-3 triumph over Peleliu.

With the game tied at 3-all,

after five and a half innings, Derrick Aughenbaugh blasted a two-run single to break the deadlock. Aughenbaugh later reach home plate off Asap Ogumoro's base hit for the Tigers' 6-3 lead.

Peleliu then failed to extend the game, as its leadoff batter was tagged out and the last two flied out, leaving its second batter stranded at first.

Wuzz Up 3, Auel Auel 1

In a low-scoring game, Wuzz Up downed Auel Auel, 3-1.

Wuzz Up had its first run at the bottom of the first with Nokie Saralu making it home off Giovanni Ayuyu's single. Wuzz Up then went cold in the next four innings before posting two more runs in the sixth inning off Auel Auel's errors.

Vince Reyes scored Auel Auel's lone run in the third inning.

MOSLEY

From Page 28

legal: Mayweather is accused of felony grand larceny, coercion and robbery from an incident last September, and also faces misdemeanor domestic battery and harassment charges.

There's no telling how long it will take those issues to be resolved, and no guarantee Mayweather will ever step in the ring again, much less against Pacquiao.

"What I have done in boxing, I am satisfied, I'm happy, and I'm not really pushing that fight hard," Pacquiao said Monday during an interview at The Associated Press. "If that fight happens, that's good for me and the fans, because the fans are very eager to see that fight."

"People want to see a good fight," he said moments later, "between me and him."

For now, though, they'll have

to settle for one against Mosley.

The former five-time champion split with Golden Boy Promotions, of which he was part owner, just to land the opportunity against the sport's most bankable star.

Mosley even lobbied at the home of Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum that he should be chosen for the fight.

Now, the 39-year-old Mosley is defending himself against fans and critics who believe he's too far past his prime to give Pacquiao much competition.

After all, Mosley was nearly shut out by Mayweather last May and managed only an uninspiring draw against Sergio Mora in September.

"I'm sure there will be other opportunities," Mosley said, "but this is a fighter who is supposed to be one of the best in history. To take him out would be remarkable."

Mosley isn't the only one

coming to his defense.

Arum called him "the epitome of what we like a fighter to be," and Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach said that it's hard to get motivated for a guy such as Mora.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao gushed over all that Mosley has accomplished, calling him one of the best of his generation.

"I respect and I really admire Team Mosley, because this is my first time to encounter an opponent where they're not talking trash," Pacquiao said. "In the ring, we'll have to forget we're friends and do our job and give everybody a good fight."

Pacquiao plans to spend about four weeks training in the Philippines, which allows him to spend time with his family and tend to his political career; he was elected to Congress from the Sarangani province last year.

Then he'll head to the Wild

Card Boxing Club in Los Angeles for about three weeks, before jetting off to Las Vegas for the week of the fight.

It'll be the first time Pacquiao fights in Las Vegas since 2009, after fighting twice last year at Cowboys Stadium near Dallas.

Tickets at the MGM Grand had nearly sold out by Monday, and closed-circuit tickets at casinos on The Strip are already on sale.

"I always said that the best matchup would be Shane Mosley and Manny Pacquiao," said Nazim Richardson, who will train Mosley for the fight and who joined the chorus of praise for boxing's current standard-bearer. "This guy has been one of the best in history."

"If you don't like Manny Pacquiao," Richardson said with a smile, "then he must have done something to you personally, because it's impossible not to like Manny."

V-POWER

From Page 28

in the bottom frame off a solo homer by Fred Sato and two other runs off errors.

Familia tied up the game in the fourth inning off a sacrifice fly by Jess Angui that scored Chris Alepuyo.

V-Power stuffed Familia in the top of the fifth inning and jumped ahead 9-4 in the bottom frame. Chris Camacho scored off a fielder's choice, John Taitano was driven in by Eric David and Ron Benavente blasted a two-run homer that brought home John Acosta.

Familia failed to answer to start the sixth inning and V-Power piled on seven more runs in the bottom frame for the run-rule decision.

V-Power's Eric Tenorio busted a two-run shot followed a walk and a hit later by a three-run bomb by teammate E.J. Tenorio. The other two runs came in off a double and a sacrifice fly.

Natibu 16, Red Eye 9

Visiting Red Eye managed one run in the top of the first, but Natibu answered with three in the bottom frame off a triple, three hits and a couple errors.

Then Natibu took a 6-3 lead after three innings of play. Both teams scored a run in the second inning and Red Eye produced its third run in the top of the third off a fielder's choice, but Natibu one-upped the effort with a pair of runs in the bottom of the third. Natibu's Jun Saralu delivered a two-RBI single.

Red Eye continued to fight back and momentarily took a 7-6 lead in the top of the fourth.

Zack Dela Cruz drove in Lency Ogarto, and J.R. Brell brought around Abe Quitugua Jr. and Dela Cruz.

Natibu went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame and Red Eye added a run to start the fifth off an RBI double by Dave Camacho.

Natibu's top of the order took over in the bottom frame and

flew four balls over the fence to shoot ahead 12-8.

Third batter Ned Norita hammered a two-run shot, Jerome Delos Santos stepped in next and blasted a solo-homer. A hit later Bruce Norita airmailed a two-run shot that scored Jerry Guerrero and B.J. Sablan came next and delivered a solo homer.

Red Eye came up empty to start the sixth and Natibu added a run in the bottom frame.

Red Eye's Nacio Camacho belted a solo shot in the top of the seventh, but Natibu's Bruce Norita slammed the door with a three-run home run in the bottom frame; Delos Santos and Guerrero came around with him to the plate. Notably, Bruce batted 3-for-4 with five RBIs and two runs.

G-Ballers 18, Laolao Bay 6

Home team G-Ballers built an early 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Lefty Shiro connected with a solo shot, a walk

later Jun Salalia nailed a two-run homer; John Wayne Kentaro and Gary Pangelinan scored off errors.

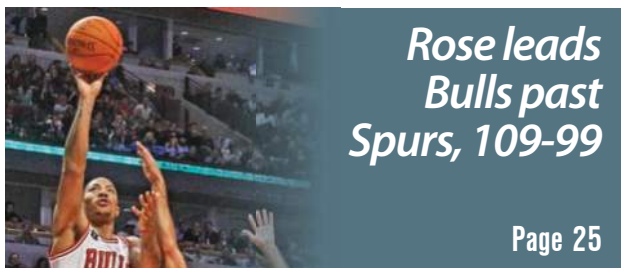
Laolao managed four runs in the top of the second off two hits, three errors, a fielder's choice, and a walk, but G-Ballers got them back in the bottom frame. Shiro scored Jeremy Koshiro off a sacrifice fly and Jude Dickenson hit three-run bomb that scored Lorenzo D.L. Guerrero and Mark Toves.

Then the score was set at 10-5 G-Ballers after both teams added a run in the inning.

After a quiet fourth, Laolao managed a run to start the fifth, but G-Ballers answered with two runs in the bottom frame.

McQueen Hiroichi singled in Pangelinan and Roy Ada came up next and doubled him home.

Laolao came up empty in the sixth inning and G-Ballers added three more runs off a double, two hits, and an error. G-Ballers' Dickenson batted 2-for-3 with five RBIs and three runs.



Rose leads
Bulls past
Spurs, 109-99

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Tigers' Cabrera
arrested on DUI
charge in Florida

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2011

Mosley: I'm doing Floyd's 'dirty work' vs Pacquiao

DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER



NEW YORK (AP)—Shane Mosley believes he's doing Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s "dirty work" by facing Manny Pacquiao, and he has no intention of losing to the popular Filipino champion.

Pacquiao and Mosley were in New York on Monday to wrap up a three-city press tour promoting their fight, which will air on pay-per-view May 7

from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Fans have been clamoring the past couple years for Pacquiao to face Mayweather in what could be the richest fight in boxing history.

But Mayweather has been reluctant to face Pacquiao, and he's now in legal trouble that could prevent the matchup from ever happening.

"I don't know what to make of Floyd not fighting this fight. It's mind-boggling to me," said Mosley, who lost a lopsided decision to the unbeaten Mayweather last year. "It's like I said on Twitter, it feels like

I'm doing Floyd's dirty work."

Mosley thinks part of the reason Mayweather hasn't fought Pacquiao is that he's a southpaw, and left-handers have caused Mayweather trouble in the past.

But the bigger issue appears to be
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Boxers Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao, left, and "Sugar" Shane Mosley pose at a news conference in New York Monday, Feb. 14, 2011, to promote their May 7, 2011 boxing match at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas.

AP



Lean CNMI delegation to Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will compete in only three events in the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia this August.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White announced during the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet Thursday night at Saipan Grand Hotel that only golf, athletics, and beach volleyball completed the requirement for the Pacific Games.

NMASA mandated sports federations to turn in \$1,000 bond per team and \$250 per diem for each delegate on or before Feb. 15 to gain entry to the quadrennial meet and when the deadline lapsed, only three groups met the requirement.

The bond is needed as NMASA has until the end of this month to inform



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMASA president Michael White, left, seen here listening to NMASA vice president Jeff Race, announced during the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet, that the CNMI will be competing in only three events in the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia in August.

the Pacific Games organizing committee about the sports the CNMI will be

competing in. If a federation is listed, but end up failing to compete, NMASA

will use the bond to pay for the penalty for pulling out of the competition.

"With only three federations completing the requirement, we will have a lean delegation to the Pacific Games this year," White said.

White added it is unfortunate that the CNMI will have a small delegation to New Caledonia due to the financial difficulties each federation is going through. The NMASA president also said the CNMI could send more athletes to the Pacific Games if financial assistance from the government is available. He said NMASA has yet to get a response from its request for assistance from the Legislature, but said he understands the situation, as 2011 is really a tough year for looking for funds. NMASA had earlier estimated the cost of the Pacific Games trip at \$2,200 per delegate.

This year's Pacific Games will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10 with 28 sports lined up for the quadrennial competition: athletics, basketball, beach and indoor volleyball, soccer, golf, weightlifting, swimming, Rugby 7's, tennis, table tennis, va's (canoe racing), badminton, baseball, boxing, cricket, karate, squash, surfing, taekwondo, shooting, archery, triathlon, sailing, body building, power lifting, and judo.

Masters hold off Ol'Aces, 6-5

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Masters won its debut in the 2011 season of the Saipan Major League after nipping Ol'Aces, 6-5, Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Masters clung to an early 4-1 lead they assembled back in the second inning. The Ol'Aces chipped away at its deficit and managed to tie the game at 5-5 in the eighth frame, but the Masters stopped the bleeding and went on to take the game in the bottom of the ninth inning with a walk off single by Reno Celis.

SML action continues at Tan Ko field on Tuesday with the defending
See MASTERS on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Reno Celis, seen here in a file photo, hit the game-winning single in the Masters' 6-5 victory over Ol'Aces in the Saipan Major League Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

V-Power tops Team Familia

» Natibu, G-Ballers also victorious

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

V-Power, Natibu, and G-Ballers won their respective games in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League men's division Wednesday night at Capitol Hill Ballfield.

V-Power improved its win-loss card 2-1 after defeating Team Familia, 16-4, in the first matchup; Familia is winless in two tries.

In the second game, Natibu downed Red Eye, 16-9, and raised its winning streak to three. Although

Red Eye was the first team to go the distance with the defending champs, they have yet to barge into the win column after three games.

G-Ballers, meanwhile, evened out its win-loss card to 1-1 following an 18-6 beating on Laolao Bay in the nightcap. Laolao Bay remains winless in two games.

V-Power 16, Team Familia 4
Both teams scored a run in the first inning and visiting Familia took a brief 3-1 lead in the top of the third off errors.

Then V-Power pulled ahead 4-3
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